

THE Hongkong Weekly Press

AND China Oberland Trade Report.

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BIRTHS.

On the 9th April, at Shanghai, the wife of A. D. LANDAU, of a son.
On the 13th April, at Singapore, the wife of D. MAW, of a son.
On the 20th April, at Ewo, Shanghai, the wife of DAVID LANDAU, of a daughter.
On the 22nd April, at 5, Rose Terrace, Kowloon, the wife of EDWARD JONES, of a son.

MARRIAGE.

On the 8th April, at Kobe, at the Netherlands Consulate, HENDRIK VAN OORDE VAN LAUWEN-RECHT, Netherlands Consul, to Mrs. EUGENIA MATILDE PANTALEONADEL CAMPO Y VILCHES, widow of A. VAN DER VALK, late of Manila.

DEATHS.

On the 17th March, at Bushey, Herts, England, T. A. COWD, son, late of Shanghai, aged 65 years.
On the 10th April, at Nagasaki, Captain I. A. KOCH, late Secretary of the German Consulate, Nagasaki, aged 68 years.
On the 11th April, at No. 2, Ward Road, Shanghai, REGINALD EUSTACE, the third son of JAMES and AMANDA C. FETHERSTONHAUGH, aged three years.
On the 20th April, at Pea's Hospital, Hongkong, JAMES HENRY MAGLEHOSE, aged 68 years.
On the 23rd April, at Hongkong, J. PESTONJEE (JETHANJEE PESTONJEE KHARAS), aged 72 years. Bombay and Japan papers please copy.

Hongkong Weekly Press

HONGKONG OFFICE: 14, DES VŒUX ROAD, CL.
LONDON OFFICE: 131, FLEET STREET, E.C.

ARRIVALS OF MAILS.

The English mail of the 27th March arrived, per P. & O. steamer *Bengal*, on the 24th April (28 days); and the U.S. mail of the 27th March arrived, per the T.K.K. steamer *America Maru* on the 24th April (28 days).

HONGKONG.

The number of plague cases in the Colony from January 1st to date is returned at 329.

Sergt. E. Sherwin, H.K.V.C., sailed for home per the *Empress of India* on the 22nd inst., and received a hearty send-off from his many friends.

Mr. H. L. Denny, of Messrs. Denny and Bowley, solicitors, was among the passengers who left on the *Empress* on the 22nd inst.; he has gone home on leave.

A Chinese hawk was robbed by highway-men beyond Kowloon City on the 16th inst. last. He was stabbed in the right arm and robbed of a small sum of money.

Captain Milroy of the Sailors' Home, who was bitten by a dog some time ago and went to Saigon for treatment on the Pasteur method, is reported to be quite out of danger.

The visitors to the City Hall Library and Museum for the week ended 19th April were 226 non-Chinese and 65 Chinese to the former, and 72 non-Chinese and 2,435 Chinese to the latter institution.

A small outbreak of fire occurred in an empty house at 67, Battery Street, Yaumati between two and three o'clock Wednesday morning. Fortunately it was discovered before the flames had made much headway, and Inspector Macdonald in charge of some firemen from Yaumati was able to overcome the outbreak, the damage by which does not exceed \$20.

Vice-Admiral Marechal, who arrived on the 19th inst. on the flagship *M. ntealm*, came ashore on the 21st inst. and visited His Excellency the Governor. The Admiral landed at Blake Pier where he was received by a guard of honour of the Sherwood Foresters and the regimental band. He saluted the Foresters' colours in passing. H.M.S. *Albion* fired a salute as the Admiral neared Blake Pier.

A meeting of Justices of the Peace was held on the 21st inst. at the Magistracy to consider an application from Frank Francis for the transfer of his publican's licence for Thomas's Hotel to Ardsher Bejaunjee Kharas. Mr. F. A. Hazeland presided, and there were also present Messrs. J. H. Kemp, B. H. Craig, H. E. Pollock, K.C., and C. D. Melbourne. Mr. J. Hastings appeared for the applicant. There were no police objections, and the application was granted unanimously.

The petitions sent in to His Excellency the Governor (for transmission to the Secretary of State for the Colonies) by the Chinese and non-Chinese subordinate civil servants, praying that they be paid exchange compensation on their salaries, have been duly forwarded, but, we understand, the heads of the several Governmental departments have been requested to inform the petitioners that His Excellency cannot see his way to recommend any further increase of officials' salaries at the present time. The petitioners' case was that they were entitled to participate in the compensation privilege extended to the senior officials some time ago.

It has been pointed out to us that it is by no means "a new departure" in the Colony for the Attorney-General to receive the acting-appointment of the Chief Justiceship. While it is true that the Puisne Judge received that honour in 1901, we have been reminded that the Attorney-General was absent from the Colony at the time. While Sir William Goodman was Attorney-General he received the acting-appointment of Chief Justice in 1895, 1896 and 1899-1900.

On the severance of his connection with the office of the *Hongkong Daily Press*, of which he has been the local manager during the past three years, Mr. Alfred Cunningham was on the 20th inst. presented by the European and Chinese staffs with a handsome souvenir in the form of a suitably-inscribed silver fruit-dish and four silver flower-vases for table decoration. The presentation was made on behalf of the staff by Mr. B. A. Hale, the acting Editor, who succeeds Mr. Cunningham in the management. Mr. Cunningham left Hongkong on the 21st inst. by the s.s. *Kaga Maru* for England.

On the 16th inst. a daring piracy was committed on board a fishing-junk lying at anchor in Starlit Inlet, a bay situated in British waters outside the harbour, but close to Chinese territory. Six Chinamen rowed off to the junk and boarded her before the occupants became aware of the hostile intentions of the visitors, who were armed with revolvers and daggers. A fight ensued, and one of the junk's crew was wounded by a shot; this man in his fear jumped overboard and was drowned. The remaining members of the crew, seeing the measures the pirates were prepared to adopt to achieve their purpose, ceased to oppose them, and the pirates proceeded to pillage the junk. They took \$100 in money and everything worth the trouble of carrying away, ultimately leaving the boat and making their way back into Chinese territory beyond the possibility of capture.

The N. Y. K. steamer *Inaba Maru*, which left here on the 18th inst. for Europe, takes away two of the oldest residents in the Colony. In fact, we believe Mr. C. C. Cohen was the oldest resident. He came out in 1857 to join the firm of Oxford & Co., and has only visited his native country once since his arrival. Mr. Cohen was Chairman of the Stockbrokers' Association, and has been a familiar figure amongst the brokers for the last thirty years. Mr. G. C. Anderson, who is also a very old resident, has been nearly as long in China. He was for many years in Messrs. Jardine, Matheson & Co.'s coasting steamers, and was well known as commander of the *Appin*. He left that steamer to accept a shore appointment in the Indo-China S. N. Co., and has more lately acted as agent of the Bureau Veritas. Mr. Anderson has always taken a keen interest in the Navy, and for more than two years has acted as Hon. Secretary of the Navy League, in the promotion of which he showed much energy and secured a large accession of members. An address from the Committee expressive of their great appreciation of his services in this capacity was presented to him shortly before his departure. Mr. Anderson was also entertained at a farewell dinner at the Hongkong Hotel by his numerous friends connected with the shipping interest, while the St. Andrew's Society (of which he was a former chairman) presented him with a silver quisk as a memento of his long connection with it.

THE DEATH OF YUNG LU.

(Daily Press, 18th April.)

The death of Yung Lu removes one more of the old type of officials whose ignorance of the new world conditions prevailing throughout the globe have brought so much misery on their native countries. Without any pretence of statesmanship he yet possessed so much of the statecraft that is often mistaken for it, that for many years he has not only preserved his own in the corrupt administration of Peking, but has made himself sufficiently powerful to make his influence felt throughout China, and to become a factor which even the most influential of the Powers have felt themselves compelled to reckon with. That under the old conditions Yung Lu might have materially altered the course of events in the Far East goes, we may say, without saying; that under the new he well might have brought about the ruin of his country is equally incontrovertible. Those new conditions Yung Lu never had the ability to comprehend, and we may without hesitation say that his removal can only be looked upon as a relief to the country he so badly served. To residents in China who are able to measure the position of affairs, the forebodings of the home Press as to the immediate future seem strangely despondent; and we can only attribute their lugubrious tone to a mistaken view of the real power possessed by the late favourite of the EMPRESS DOWAGER. In point of fact though Yung Lu's private sentiments up to the very end never underwent any change for the better, his ability for evil has been long a thing of the past. Even the Dowager Ts'ehi with all the will has seen the necessity of discarding him, and sorely against her own desires has had to yield to the too powerful current. Still the best wishers for China's prosperity and independence cannot but feel that a distinct load has been removed out of the way, and that there is now less friction in the way of the machine of State. In this respect the present condition of affairs in China contrasts favourably with that prevailing in Turkey. The Chinese in worldly affairs have never shown themselves blind to their own best interests; there are in China no questions of oppressed nationalities to complicate the question of reform; and the nation, though like all Oriental peoples, conservative to the backbone, has throughout its history shown a ready ability to take a practical grasp of an altered position. The vast majority of the nation has become convinced that times have altered and the present system is not able to cope with the altered position, and a pressure, none the less real that it is silent, has undoubtedly begun to assert itself even in the councils of Peking. The old school of which Li Hung-chang, Yung Lu and Sheng Kung-fao were the most conspicuous examples has no successors; new men and new ideas are forcing themselves to the front, and as each one of the old drops off, his place is filled by men of different calibre. We do not flatter ourselves that the new men are morally better than the old, or that their ingrained prejudices are powerful. They have, however, learned a good deal of the practical side of the politics of the world, and there is, we believe, little chance of the old follies being repeated. Nor, as we have said before, are we disposed to place much importance on the efforts of such discredited barbarians as Prince Tuan and Tung Fu-shiang. It is probable enough that they have had the secret connivance of both Yung Lu and the Dowager Ts'ehi,

but the power for mischief of both one and the other was at all times greatly exaggerated, and even before the decease of the former was a practicably negligible quantity.

ACTING LEGAL APPOINTMENTS.

(Daily Press, 18th April.)

In the acting appointments which he has made consequent upon vacation leave being granted to Sir W. M. GOODMAN, the Chief Justice, His Excellency the GOVERNOR has made a departure from a long established practice which does not meet with public approval. Hitherto, it has been the practice in the Colony when the Chief Justice has been away on vacation leave to appoint the Puisne Judge to act in his place; but on the present occasion the claims of the Attorney-General to the honour have been preferred to those of the Puisne Judge. It has been stated that the appointment belongs to the Attorney-General as of right, which presumably means custom or precedent, (such as the appointment at home of the Attorney-General to be Lord Chief Justice) for we can find no Colonial Office rule on regulation bearing on the question. These provide merely that every officer proceeding on leave must make adequate arrangements for the performance of his duties. In this case Sir W. GOODMAN proceeds on vacation leave, which carries full pay. There is no abatement of salary during vacation leave, but the leave must be recorded under the Governor's hand, and the officer absenting himself must, with the concurrence or sanction of the GOVERNOR, have made such arrangements as may be necessary for the adequate discharge of his duties without cost to the public. The proper course to have followed therefore was for Sir W. GOODMAN to have asked Mr. JUSTICE WISE to perform his duties for the two months that he was taking leave, without any necessity of removing the Attorney-General and the Government putting in a non-service man, thereby dislocating both the judicial and legal departments. The criticism which the acting appointments have evoked has been due not to any hostility to the gentlemen who have been honoured with the appointments by H. E. the GOVERNOR,—for they are both gentlemen of unquestioned ability and integrity—but it originates partly in the high respect which is generally entertained for Mr. Justice Wise, whose long experience in the Colony no less than his proved ability as a Judge constitute the strongest possible claim to the honour of the acting appointment to the Chief Justiceship. It is, we have no doubt, disagreeable to all the gentlemen concerned to find their names used in a discussion of this kind in the public Press, but the present acting appointments invite criticism inasmuch as they constitute a departure from established practice, appear to us to be bad in principle and opposed to the letter and the spirit of the Colonial Office rules and regulations. "In general it may be stated" says Rule 70, "that his Majesty will be advised to regard more favourably appointments which are in the nature of promotions of meritorious public servants, rather than appointments made in favour of persons new to the public service;" and again (Rule 73), "great weight must always be attached to local services and experience." In the best interests of the service, it is desirable that these regulations should be strictly observed.

Mr. A. E. Algar has been elected President of the Shanghai Recreation Club in succession to Mr. Brodie A. Clark, who has resigned.

THE FAMINE IN KWANGSI.

(Daily Press, 21st April.)

We desire to draw the attention of our readers to the observations made by His EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR at the conclusion of the meeting of the Legislative Council yesterday with reference to the famine which prevails in Kwangsi. Most people have been aware that the failure of the crops in the province for three successive seasons has produced widespread distress, but when once the appalling nature of the famine is realised we are sure that the "touch of nature which makes the whole world kin" will produce a ready response to any appeal for funds which the meeting convened by His EXCELLENCY for Thursday may recommend. The Rev. I. L. Hess, of Wuchow, who is the Chairman of the American Alliance Mission in the province, has related to us some details of the shocking condition to which the population in the neighbourhood of Kwaiping have been reduced. The state of large numbers of people is that of absolute starvation. Men who before the failure of crops were in easy circumstances—even wealthy—have had to dispose of their goods and chattels to provide food for their children. So pitiable is the plight of the people that in numberless instances they have even sold their wives or children, and deaths from sheer starvation are by no means uncommon. The missionaries are doing whatever lies in their power to afford relief, and up to the present they have received from various sources a sum of between \$2,000 and \$3,000, but in the district of Kwaiping alone a sum of not less than \$12,000 is deemed necessary to sustain the famishing populace until the next harvest. At the meeting on Thursday Mr. Hess will doubtless supplement these facts, and may also be able to tell us whether the provincial authorities and the wealthy people of the province have organised or intend organising any measures with a view to ameliorating the pitiable condition of the people. It is too often the case in the East that relief funds are promoted and assisted almost exclusively by foreigners, and it would encourage the generous impulses of the foreign resident if he could be assured that the wealthy men of Kwangsi and other provinces of China were doing their best to assist their famishing kinsfolk. An appeal of this nature, when the circumstances clearly show the necessity for it, is seldom made in any British community without securing a prompt and satisfactory response, and we have no doubt that the traditional generosity of all classes in Hongkong will be adequately maintained in the response to the appeal which will be made to the community in the course of a few days.

(Daily Press, 24th April.)

A very satisfactory feature of the speech delivered by His EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR yesterday at the meeting convened to consider the desirability of raising a Fund in the Colony for the relief of the distress occasioned by the famine in Kwangsi was the announcement that the Tung Wah Hospital authorities had already sent sums amounting to about \$4,000 to the afflicted districts to be expended in relieving the destitute. His EXCELLENCY has been at great pains to ascertain that the distress in the province is of a very exceptional character, and has upon the information he has received dispatched with commendable promptitude Mr. CLEMENTI as an almoner as well as an independent investigator in the interests of the Fund to which

the community are invited to subscribe. The reports coming from missionaries clearly establish the fact that in certain districts of the province at least the suffering is terribly acute, and the urgent need of outside help incontestable. The tales of misery and woe recorded in the course of our report of yesterday's meeting, by way of illustrating the general condition in the agricultural districts, cannot fail to evoke the compassion and practical sympathy of the reader with the afflicted people on whose behalf the appeal is made, and that there will be a ready and general response to the appeal we have no doubt. Especially will this be the case when it is seen that the Chinese who live in more favoured surroundings are doing something to help their afflicted brethren in the famine-stricken districts. When people have to resort to the expedient of selling their children in order to save themselves and to ensure food for their offspring, it shows how dire is the need, and the fact that many are dying of sheer starvation in a country where food ordinarily is so cheap constitutes an appeal which is strong enough to need no backing for the help which above all things must be prompt. An influential committee was appointed at yesterday's meeting for the purpose of ascertaining (1) the extent of the famine, (2) the collection of the necessary relief funds; and (3) the mode of their distribution. His EXCELLENCY, it will be observed, has made enquiries from many sources in the province because he was anxious, as he put it, not to make any move in the matter until he had satisfied himself that there really was such a state of want and famine as would justify him in coming before the people of Hongkong and asking them to subscribe towards its alleviation.

MOSQUITOES AND MALARIA.

(Daily Press, 20th April.)

It is very satisfactory to note in the Report of the Medical Officer of Health for 1902 a very substantial decrease of deaths from malarial fevers in the Colony. Among the Chinese the total number of deaths from this cause last year was 393, as compared with 541 during the previous year, 887 during 1900, and 532 during 1899. "The training of the nullahs on the outskirts of the City," Dr. CLARK says, "is the only practicable means of reducing the death-rate from this cause." The Medical Officer tendered this and much other advice on the same subject in his Report for 1900, and a considerable sum of money has since been expended in this effort to get rid of the malarial mosquito. We may take it that the substantial decline in the death-rate from malaria is the direct result of this endeavour, and should tend to encourage the Government and the public generally in all similar efforts which have for their object the extermination of the microbe-bearing mosquito known as the Anopheles. There is no longer any room to doubt that malaria is conveyed from one person to another by this particular mosquito, for wherever systematic measures have been adopted to rid malarial areas of the Anopheles mosquito, a decrease in the prevalence of malarial fever has immediately followed.

Since it has thus been proved that the crusade against the mosquito is something more than "a medical fad," the duty rests on every one of us to beware of the mosquito and to slay him when we can. We remember hearing a medical lecturer tell his audience that one way to distinguish the malarial from the ordinary mosquito was to note how they alight on a person; the Anopheles (the

malarial mosquito) will stand, as it were, on its forefeet, keeping its body almost perpendicular, while the body of the Culex as it alights is always horizontally poised. The defect of this advice is that it allows the bloodthirsty insect to satisfy its craving perhaps before we have time to correctly gauge the poise of its body and to act as the circumstances would dictate. As however the bite of the Culex is more irritating than that of the malarial genus, it seems hardly worth the while of the smiter to stay his hand. Our own Medical Officer has given fuller and more useful instructions as to how the one can be distinguished from the other. The Anopheles, he says, differs from the ordinary mosquito (genus, Culex) in that its approach is not heralded by that noisy "ping" that characterises the latter; that it rarely bites except between sunset and sunrise, and while the Culex will breed in any old flower-pot or tin containing water, the Anopheles generally requires as a breeding-ground a more sheltered pool, containing perhaps organic matter in suspension or a small quantity of water weed, and the water of which is neither stagnant nor yet pure spring water. Dr. CLARK in his Report for 1900 stated that the Anopheles are almost always to be found in the neighbourhood of native dwellings, and that some 1 to 5 per cent. of them will be found to contain the malarial organism.

Dr. CLARK therefore recommended:—(1) that European houses should be distant some 400-500 yards at least from native dwellings, this being the extent of the distance the Anopheles is capable of travelling; (2) that all pools in which Anopheles can breed should be filled up or drained for a like distance, around such European houses; (3) that all brushwood and rank vegetation, including grass, should be kept down by frequent cutting; and (4) that mosquito-nets should be used at night. A certain amount of work was done in the Colony in the year 1900 by the treatment of some of the Anopheles pools with paraffin, and the filling up of others with concrete, but as the number of deaths recorded that year from malarial fevers greatly exceeded that of previous years, Dr. CLARK expressed the opinion that nothing but a thorough scheme of training the nullahs on the outskirts of the city would have any appreciable effect in reducing the number of mosquitoes capable of carrying infection. As we have already pointed out, the work done in that direction during the last two years seems justified by the results shown by the medical returns. It is strange that the Medical Officer should have omitted to specifically include the "street gullies" in his enumeration of the breeding-places of the mosquito, and we commend the attention of the authorities to the letter from Mr. R. K. LEIGH, C.E., which appears in our columns to-day in which he recommends the abolition of these "cesspits of dirty water" for the double reason that they are full of mosquitoes and are in a great measure accountable for the bad smells met with in our streets, while they appear to be useless for the purpose for which they were provided.

The Manila authorities are prosecuting many barbers in the City for breaches of the Sanitary regulations. The Chinese are great transgressors in this respect and on prosecuting twelve of them last week, the police testified that their shops were in a filthy condition, the same water was used all day in shaving dozens of Chinese, the razors were never cleaned and the shops were the breeding-places of disease. Judge Liddell sentenced them to pay fines ranging from two to five dollars.

AMERICA AND THE PHILIPPINES.

(Daily Press, 22nd April.)

Hongkong has not enjoyed until recently a reputation as a health resort, but it seems to be rapidly acquiring that reputation among the American residents in the Philippines. During the past two months hundreds of American officials have taken the trip to Hongkong to spend their vacation leave here, and have found the change agreeable enough to establish a decided preference for the British Colony. They speak in flattering terms of its general air of prosperity, and of its administration, as well of its climate, in contrast with the conditions prevailing in the Philippines. It well known that numbers of American business men who have come out to the Philippines in search of the Almighty Dollar have already returned home disappointed in their hopes and extremely pessimistic in their views of the future of that Island; unless the whole conception of government speedily undergoes a radical change. Business, according to all accounts, has been at a standstill for a long time, labour is bad and the country undeveloped, and the openings for the white man in the Islands are regarded as few and far between. "The worst of it is," says the *Manila Times* "most of what is said is true. Conditions are bad and many Americans, disgusted with the way things are going on, are leaving the islands."

But while the journal above mentioned agrees that the causes enumerated above doubtless account to a large extent for the migration that has taken place, it ventures to suggest as another factor the circumstance that the major portion of the original colonists were hardly the kind of men the islands needed. They were volunteers who came out primarily to fight, and with no definite resolve or preparation to settle down to industry, so that when a period of depression set in, and stringency and contraction became the order of the day, these men, not being firm and secure in the positions they occupied, were so affected as to find it advantageous and expedient to move. The same may be said, our contemporary adds, with regard to many other Americans who came out without any specific plans or occupations in view, and totally ignorant of the conditions. For the right kind of men, the *Manila Times* declares it cannot be denied that there are abundant opportunities, especially in the line of manufactures. "We could have more hat and match manufactories, and there is also an opening for more lumber mills, for paper mills, for wood and cabinet work, for tanneries, for potteries, and for other industries where modern, labour-saving devices could be brought into play. The same holds true to a large extent of our agriculture, which is still conducted with the methods in vogue two or three hundred years ago."

Apparently our contemporary seeks to get over the labour difficulty by advocating a more extensive use of labour-saving machinery, and ignores the demand for Chinese labour which in the opinion of many business men is the great immediate need. The keynote of American rule in the Islands has been declared to be "the Philippines for the Filipino," and the aim of the benevolent tutor is that the natives should govern themselves just as do the people of Arizona or Oklahoma. America is assumed to be merely aiding them until experience shall so change their racial temperament and educate them to a proper appreciation of republican institutions as to fit them to

receive the benefits of self-government. That is the view taken of the matter at Washington, but contact with the actual conditions of life in the Philippines does not tend to confirm the average American in the faith that the right methods of government are being adopted. We can, however, rest assured that if mistakes are being made, the day of their rectification will come, and whatever may be said of present conditions in the Philippines, the eyes of the critic must not be closed to the fact that seed sown requires time to fructify, and no one can doubt that the educative work which is being undertaken by the government throughout the islands must result in a gradual improvement of the race.

ST. GEORGE'S DAY.

(Daily Press, 23rd April.)

How many Englishmen in the Colony, we wonder, are aware that this is St. George's Day—the day dedicated to the memory of Old England's Patron Saint? Hongkong, like most other ports in the Far East, numbers among its institutions a St. George's Society, but the custom of a more or less general celebration of the "23rd" seems, so far as this Colony at least is concerned, to have fallen into desuetude. On such a day it will be appropriate to refer to the desire which has been expressed in many parts of the Empire to have a day set apart as an annual national holiday. The name of Lord MEATH has been very prominently associated with the movement to secure the observance of such a day throughout the Empire, and his Committee we believe are pledged to the advocacy of May 24th, a date which will long yet be remembered as the birthday of our late illustrious Sovereign QUEEN VICTORIA. On the other hand, the Society of St. George, which has recently obtained the King's sanction to use the prefix "Royal" in its title, claims that there is a consensus of opinion in favour of the 23rd of April being proclaimed "Empire Day," and we are told that it has already been adopted by the Sons of England Societies and others. The Sons of England Societies are benevolent associations which had their origin in Canada, where numerous branches exist in every province, and many branches now flourish in various parts of South Africa. There was a time in the history of England when St. George's Day was recognised as a national festival. It is the object of the Royal Society of St. George to revive the observance, and it may be interesting to our readers to learn how the day is now observed in many parts of England and in the Colonies.

The Festival Dinner, of course, occupies a prominent place in every programme, and just as the haggis at a Scotch dinner is heralded by the bagpipes, so at a St. George's Dinner is "the Roast Beef" brought to the festive board to the time-honoured tune of "The Roast Beef of Old England" (a tune played daily aboard all His Majesty's ships in commission), and as the dish is borne round the room preceded by a soldier carrying the English Flag, and followed by drummers the enthusiasm of the diners obtains free vent. Special services at the churches and cathedrals form another feature of the celebrations, and every Englishman of course proclaims his nationality by the wearing of the rose when the flower is obtainable. The Banner of St. George floats proudly in the breeze from private and public buildings, and at some of the villages in England the custom has been revived of gathering the school

children together at noon to sing the National Anthem, and to voice the old cry of "St. George for Merrie England." And not only in the villages are these interesting observances now taking place. Last year at Hoxton, one of the poorest districts of our great metropolis, the Vicar after a church service organised a procession, the principal figure in which was an impersonation of St. George clad in chain armour, preceded by his Banner and followed by cars symbolising Britannia, Peace and War, and the Colonies. At the Town Hall, the procession was received by the Mayor, in his official robes and there the revels took place—morris dancing, a performance of the old street play, "St. George and Merrie England," May Day games &c., combining to make the celebration unique in the metropolis, and unequalled anywhere else in the Empire so far as we are able to judge from the reports collected by the Royal Society of St. George.

In this brief recital of what is done elsewhere in honour of England's Patronal Saint, the local Society will perceive how much could be done in a place like Hongkong to make the celebration worthy of the occasion, and how desirable it is, especially in the interests of the younger generation, to take advantage of these little opportunities of stimulating their patriotic pride.

HONGKONG LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

A meeting of the Legislative Council was held on the 20th inst. in the Council Chamber. Present:—

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR, Sir HENRY A. BLAKE, G.C.M.G.
HIS EXCELLENCY Sir W. GASCOIGNE, K.C.M.G. (Commanding the Troops).
Hon. F. H. MAY (Colonial Secretary).
Hon. Sir HENRY SPENCER BERKELEY, Kt. (Attorney-General).
Hon. A. M. THOMSON (Colonial Treasurer).
Hon. Commander R. M. RUMSEY, R.N. (Harbour Master).
Hon. W. CHATHAM (Director of Public Works).
Hon. J. M. ATKINSON (Principal Civil Medical Officer).
Hon. Sir C. P. CHATER, C.M.G.
Hon. Dr. HO KAI, C.M.G.
Hon. WEI YUK.
Hon. C. W. DICKSON.
Hon. R. SHEWAN.
Hon. GERSHOM STEWART.
Mr. R. F. JOHNSTON (Acting Clerk of Council).

FINANCIAL.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY laid on the table Financial Minutes Nos. 4 to 10, 12 and 13, and moved that they be referred to the Finance Committee.

The COLONIAL TREASURER seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY laid on the table the Report of the Finance Committee (No. 2) and moved its adoption.

The COLONIAL TREASURER seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

NEW MEMBERS.

Hon. Dr. J. M. Atkinson, Principal Civil Medical Officer, and Hon. Gershom Stewart took the formal oath as new members and assumed their seats.

SANITARY BOARD BYE-LAWS.

The PRINCIPAL CIVIL MEDICAL OFFICER moved the adoption of the Bye-laws made by the Sanitary Board as to cattle, pigs, sheep and goats. He said—These Bye-laws were made by the Sanitary Board on 27th March. These alterations in the Bye-laws are consequent on the Sanitary Board having taken over the cattle depôts at Kennedytown and are necessitated by the fact that an alteration in the method of collecting fees at Hunghom is intended. The slaughter-house collector at Kennedytown collects the slaughter-house fees

there and the Government collects the depôt fees and at Hunghom the fees for both the slaughter-house and the depôts are collected by the Government.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

PAPERS.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY laid on the table the Report of the Inspector of Schools for 1902, the Returns of the Subordinate Court for 1902, the Report of the Director of the Observatory for 1902, the Report of the Superintendent of Victoria Gaol for 1902, the Report of the Examiners of Queen's College, the Report of the Captain Superintendent of Police for 1902, the Statement of Water Account for 1902, the Supreme Court Reports for 1902, the Reports of the Medical Officer of Health, the Sanitary Surveyor and the Colonial Veterinary Surgeon for 1902, and the Financial Returns for 1902.

QUESTIONS.

Hon. R. SHEWAN put the following questions:—

1. Will the Colonial Secretary inform the Council when the Land Settlement in the New Territory was commenced, and when it is now expected to be completed?

2. Will the Colonial Secretary give an explanation of the delay in settling this matter, almost four years having elapsed since the date of the concession?

3. What is being done towards carrying out the scheme for augmenting the water supply by pumping from Tytam Tuk?

4. As the permanent Works must occupy some time to construct, are any steps being taken, of a temporary nature, to afford an increased supply, and if so, what?

ANSWERS.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY—Sir, the replies to the first two questions are:—The land settlement of the New Territory commenced with the establishment of the Land Court on 1st June, 1900. The settlement will be complete when (a) all Crown Lands have been delimited and marked off from land in private ownership; (b) all genuine disputes as to the ownership of land, whether existing before the Convention, or originating with it, have been decided; (c) a uniform system of land tenure has been devised and put into working order; (d) a rent roll based upon the maps is available for revenue collection. The rent roll will be ready this year and the Titles Ordinance has been passed by the Council. The survey and demarcation of the mainland is completed. But the whole of the work of land settlement will probably not be completed before 1906. The chief difficulties have been:—(a) The enormous number of very small holdings of which there must be over a quarter of a million in the Territory. This has necessitated an elaborate scheme of demarcation, that is of marking out holdings, which is only just completed. (b) The want of any system in dealing with land under Chinese rule. There was no survey and the so-called Registry of the District Magistrate is a Registry of Deeds and not a Land Registry at all. (c) There were numerous lawsuits pending in the Chinese Courts which having languished for years through lack of funds shot up into activity with the enormous increase of the value of the land consequent upon the Convention. Expropriation being out of the question a patient sifting of the evidence has been the only procedure open to the Land Court.

The DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS—Sir, the reply to the third question is:—Trial works are in progress at the head of Tytam Tuk for the purpose of ascertaining the nature and level of the solid bottom with a view to constructing a storage reservoir there. The site tentatively selected for the dam is, at low water mark, about 700 yards S. E. of Tytam Tuk village. Three brick wells are being sunk which show the nature of the strata overlying the rock, and will permit of the rock itself being examined. The wells are supplemented by numerous borings, from which a chart of the rock bottom can be prepared. The furthest advanced well extends from 12 feet above to 40 feet below, low water, and it is believed to be within 6 feet of the rock. It is only settling about an inch per day at the present time, although it weighs, together with the load on top of it, 115 tons, and is kept undermined by

constant pumping and excavating. The external load is already somewhat in the way of the work, but steps are being taken to increase it, as the best means of overcoming the retarding friction due to the lateral pressure of the surrounding earth. So far indications are not unfavourable to the ultimate adoption of this site for the dam. A dam 900 feet in length, on this site, with an overflow at a height of 60 feet above low water, would impound about 1,200,000,000 gallons, or about two and a half times the aggregate capacity of all the present storage reservoirs. It would intercept the rainfall from a direct catchment area of about 2,300 acres. This includes 700 acres the rainfall of which is intercepted by the Tytam reservoir as long as it is not overflowing. The available catchment area would be very much increased by the inclusion and extension of the present catchwater system. The lower part of the Tytam Valley has been minutely surveyed, and a chart has been prepared (laid on the table) from which the capacity of any proposed reservoir situated anywhere between low water level and the 200 feet contour can be calculated. By means of this chart the line of a proposed road, to connect the new reservoir with the Tytam Reservoir, has been marked out, and a trace is now being out with a view to preparing working drawings for the construction of the road. The rising mains from the pumps at Tytam Tuck to the Tytam tunnel will be laid along this road. A contract has been entered into for the supply of duplicate pumping engines, each capable of delivering, 1,250,000 gallons daily from the new reservoir into the Tytam Tunnel. I might mention, sir, that the construction of a new reservoir, in the bye-wash channel of the Tytam Reservoir, was commenced 15 months ago, and is now well advanced. It will be partly available this season. When completed it will hold about 30,000,000 gallons and it may be filled more than once in a year.

The reply to the fourth question is:—A small reservoir has been commenced, in the bed of a perennial stream about half way between Taitam Tuck and the Taitam Reservoir. A temporary pump will be erected at this point, capable of delivering 500,000 gallons per day into the Taitam Tunnel. Should the Taitam Reservoir cease to overflow by the 1st of September this year, the pump may be depended upon to deliver about 100,000,000 gallons during the ensuing dry season. The permanent pumping engines at Taitam Tuck will afterwards be connected with this reservoir, and will pump from it until the large reservoir has been partly erected. A temporary main is now being laid from the reservoir to the Taitam Tunnel.

NEW RULES FOR SUPREME COURT.

New rules for the Supreme Court prepared by the Chief Justice were laid on the table by the ATTORNEY-GENERAL.

STOWAWAYS.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL moved the first reading of a Bill entitled an Ordinance to provide for the more effectual prevention of frauds on owners and charterers of ships by stowaways, their aiders and abettors.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

The Council adjourned *sine die*.

FINANCE COMMITTEE.

A meeting of the Finance Committee was held immediately after the Council, the Colonial Secretary (Hon. F. H. May, C.M.G.) presiding.

THE GOVERNMENT LAUNCH.

The Governor recommended the Council to vote a sum of \$4,500 in aid of the Harbour Master's Department vote—steam-launches, other charges—to provide for a new boiler for Government launch *Victoria*.

The CHAIRMAN—It was found after inspection that the boiler of this launch is practically unfit for further use, and the matter being urgent we are asked to vote this sum.

The recommendation was approved.

LAND COURT EXPENSES.

The Governor recommended the Council to vote the sum of \$1,600 in aid of the vote of \$3,000 "Personal Emolument for Member, Land Court, New Territory."

The CHAIRMAN—It was hoped that \$3,000 would have sufficed for remuneration for the member of the Land Court this year, but owing to the abnormal number of sittings it is found

that that sum is not sufficient. So far as we can see at present the sum of \$1,600 in addition will be required.

Hon. R. SHEWAN—This is not a Government official?

The CHAIRMAN—No.

The recommendation was approved.

PLAGUE PREVENTION.

The Governor recommended the Council to vote a sum of \$8,000 in aid of the vote of \$2,000 "Bonus for Rats," other charges (plague), Sanitary Department.

The CHAIRMAN—The increased expenditure under this vote is caused principally by the increased fees instituted at the end of last year, when it was decided to pay five cents per rat instead of three cents, as formerly.

The vote was agreed to.

POST OFFICE EMOLUMENTS.

The Governor recommended the Council to vote a sum of \$300 in aid of the vote for Personal Emoluments, Post Office, made up as follows:—

Salary of Deputy Superintendent, Money Order Office, increased from \$1,680 to \$1,800 per annum as from the 1st January, 1903	\$120.00
Salary of Post Office Agent, Hankow, Subhead (Agencies in China), increased from \$540 to \$720 per annum as from the 1st January, 1903	\$180.00
Total	\$300.00

The CHAIRMAN—In connection with this vote, I may mention that the salary of the Deputy Superintendent was \$1,200, rising to \$1,500, but in view of the increased work in this department, and the responsibility of it, it was recommended that the vote be made \$1,800, rising to \$2,100. The assistant at Hankow, who has had six years' service and no increase, was also recommended for an increase from \$540 to \$720.

The vote was carried.

STAMP OFFICE EMOLUMENTS.

The Governor recommended the Council to vote a sum of \$441 in aid of the vote for Personal Emoluments, Stamp Office, Sub-Department to Treasury, made up as follows:—

Salary of additional shroff at \$480 per annum from 1st April to 31st December, 1903	\$360.00
Salary of additional pressman at \$108 per annum from 1st April to 31st December, 1903	\$81.00
Total	\$441.00

The CHAIRMAN—These increases are due to the new system of stamping about to be introduced, necessitating extra assistants.

This vote was also agreed to.

TRAINING A NULLAH.

The Governor recommended the Council to vote a sum of \$2,400 (Public Works Extraordinary) to meet the cost of training the nullah above Ripon Terrace.

The CHAIRMAN—This vote has arisen in connection with the suppression of malaria. It has not been provided for in this year's Estimates, and the Council is asked to vote this sum in order to enable the work to be carried out this year.

The vote was agreed to.

EDUCATION VOTE.

The Governor recommended the Council to vote a sum of \$7,538.16 in aid of the vote for Education, Personal Emoluments, made up as follows:—

Half salary of master and supervisor, Saiyingpun School, from 25th December, 1902, to 31st January, 1903, and full salary from 1st February to 31st December, 1903, at £270 per annum	\$3,342.16
Salary of master and supervisor, Yau-mati School, at £270 per annum, from 1st March to 31st December, 1903	2,881.00
Difference of salary for master and supervisor, Wanohai School, between \$1,800 in Estimates and £180 per annum	504.00
Difference of salary for master, Yau-mati School, between \$438 in Estimates and rate of \$720 per annum for 10½ months	192.00
Salary of assistant master, Yau-mati School, for 10 months at \$420	350.00

Forwards	\$350.00
Salary of teacher, Yau-mati School, for 10 months at \$240 per annum	2 0 00
Wages of coolie, Yau-mati School, for 10 months at \$81 per annum	70.00
Total	\$7,538.15

The CHAIRMAN—Members will recollect there was a lump sum voted in the Estimates, nearly \$20,000, for improvements in education, and the only reason this \$7,000 odd is asked for is because of certain technical objections with regard to the first open vote. So this separate vote is taken, and an equivalent sum will be saved from the vote of \$20,000 already granted.

Hon. R. SHEWAN—Are these schools Chinese schools?

The CHAIRMAN—Yes. These are schools for Chinese learning English, called Anglo-Chinese schools.

Hon. R. SHEWAN—Are they in charge of foreign masters?

The CHAIRMAN—Yes. The new system is to have a foreign master at each of these schools—Saiyingpun, Wanohai, and Yau-mati. I may mention, however, that the master at Yau-mati is not an European; he is a Chinese educated in America and has a good knowledge of English, so that he is able to do the work of an English master.

The vote was agreed to.

PILLAR-POST SERVICE.

The Governor recommended the Council to vote a sum of \$540 in aid of the vote for Personal Emoluments, Post Office:—

Salaries of men to clear pillar-boxes at \$120 per annum from 1st April to 31st December	\$540.00
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The CHAIRMAN—This sum is for the salaries of six men to clear the pillar-boxes. The work was formerly done by postmen, but it delayed them in their rounds and caused delay in the delivery of letters.

The vote was agreed to.

GARL EXPENSES.

The Governor recommended the Council to vote a sum of \$135 in aid of the vote under Personal Emoluments, Gaol Department:—

House allowance in lieu of married quarters, to Warder Sunder Singh at \$180 per annum from 1st April to 31st December, 1903	\$135
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The CHAIRMAN—The system of granting Indian warders, or a certain proportion of them, married quarters was instituted some few years ago, and this is the first married man who has made application for them.

The vote was agreed to.

This was all the business.

NEW PACIFIC MAIL LINERS.

The two new steamships recently purchased by the Pacific Mail Company and now on the stocks of an Eastern shipyard are reported to be superior in size and cabin-passengers' accommodations to the *Korea* and *Siberia*, the liners lately placed in commission by the Company. The new purchases are the *Minnetora* and *Minnekahla*, to be launched in the coming summer; both are intended by the Pacific Mail Company for use on the Hongkong route. They are sister ships of the *Minnetonka* and *Minnehaha*, built by Harland & Wolff at Belfast for the Atlantic Transport Line. These vessels are described by Lloyd's as of over 8,600 net tons register, with a length of 610.7 feet, beam of 65.5 feet and depth of 39.5 feet. They will be renamed at their launching. Each is capable of accommodating 210 cabin passengers, in addition to many hundred steerage passengers, and a cargo of 10,000 tons of freight.

The *Korea* and *Siberia*, are, as compared with the *Minnehaha*, of 7,285 tons net, 550 feet in length and 63 feet beam, while they carry 200 first-class passengers; so that the new ships will be very much larger. These latest additions are of the Harland & Wolff model, without wells, and therefore handsomer than the *Siberia* or her sister ship. The *Minnekahla* has four masts against the *Korea's* two, and her displacement is 22,000 tons against the *Korea's* 18,000.

HONGKONG SANITARY BOARD.

A meeting of the Sanitary Board was held on the 23rd inst. in the Board Room. Hon. Dr. J. M. Atkinson, Principal Civil Medical Officer (President), presided, and there were also present Hon. W. Chatham, Director of Public Works (Vice-President); Mr. C. Mc I. Messer, Acting Registrar-General; Captain F. W. Lyons, Acting Captain Superintendent of Police; Mr. Fung Wa Chun, Mr. Lau Chu Pak; Colonel W. E. Webb, R.A.M.C.; Mr. H. E. Pollock, K.C.; Mr. A. Rumjahn, Mr. G. A. Woodcock (Secretary) and Dr. W. W. Pearse (Acting Medical Officer of Health).

APPOINTMENTS.

The PRESIDENT pursuant to notice moved "That the Board, under the provisions of Section 30 of the Public Health and Buildings Ordinance, 1903, depute Senior Inspectors M. Grice, A. Carter, P. T. Lambie, J. A. Lyons and T. P. Conolly to institute summary proceedings before a Magistrate against any person contravening any of the Bye-laws duly made under Section 16 of the Public Health and Buildings Ordinance, 1903, when instructed in writing by the Acting Medical Officer of Health;" also "That the Board under the provisions of Section 256 of the Public Health and Buildings Ordinance, 1903, depute Senior Inspectors M. Grice, A. Carter, P. T. Lambie, J. A. Lyons and T. P. Conolly to institute summary proceedings before a Magistrate for the recovery of any penalty imposed by Part II of the said Ordinance or any Bye-law made thereunder when instructed in writing by the Acting Medical Officer of Health." The object of this, he said, was that the senior inspectors should be responsible for the limewashing in their own districts. Hitherto it had been necessary to employ two different sets of inspectors for this work. The senior inspectors took action first and then eventually it was left to the prosecuting inspector to take further action before the Magistrate. These resolutions would simplify matters much more and conduce to the better carrying out of the limewashing operations.

The VICE-PRESIDENT seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

THE NEW BUILDINGS BILL.

The next item was Mr. Rumjahn's motion, "That the Board recommend the Government to amend the definition of the word 'Room' as given in Sub-section 51 of Section 6 of the Public Health and Buildings Ordinance, 1903, by adding the following words thereto: 'Office, accountant's room, or any other apartment not used as a sleeping place'; and that no action be taken by the Board for the removal of any room not used as such sleeping place."

The D.P.W. minutes:—"I do not consider the amendment necessary. The definition of a room is bound up with that of a domestic building, which excludes places where people do not pass the night."

Mr. RUMJAHN in proposing the resolution contended that rooms such as dining-rooms, accountants' rooms, which are found in Chinese shops and hongs, and also rooms used as offices which did not open into the external air and were not used as sleeping places, must be removed. There was a block of buildings down below them [Beaconsfield Arcade] the back rooms of which were used as offices. These buildings had a yard or open space less than 13 feet, which did not comply with the definition of external air. If this definition was not amended these rooms must be removed. He contended that the definition of a room was not bound up with the definition of a domestic building. Under sub-section 22 of section 6, buildings such as Prince's Buildings, Queen's Buildings, and the blocks of buildings in the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank, the Hongkong Hotel and the blocks of buildings between Wyndham Street and Duddell Street came within the definition of domestic buildings, because they were adapted to be used for domestic buildings although they were used as offices, and more than two caretakers passed all night there. Of course it was not desired that Government should be asked to amend the Ordinance at once; an opportunity might be found when other amendments came up.

Mr. LAU CHU PAK seconded.

The PRESIDENT proposed as an amendment that the Board do not take action with regard to these offices and accountants' rooms or other offices that Mr. Rumjahn referred to. It was not advisable, he thought, to make an amendment of the Ordinance at this early stage. If they recollected, the Board passed some Memoranda on 15th March, 1900, in connection with the enforcement of the Insanitary Properties Ordinance, providing that it should not be necessary for the Board to take action in regard to existing "ping-pong shops", which were practically accountants' rooms. He moved that in the cases mentioned by Mr. Rumjahn they take no action.

Mr. FUNG WA CHUN second. As long as the Board did not take any action in such cases he saw no objection.

Mr. RUMJAHN pointed out that the Insanitary Properties Ordinance was repealed by the new Ordinance and consequently any bye-laws made under the former would have no effect.

The PRESIDENT—That is not a bye-law.

Mr. FUNG WA CHUN—It is a concession.

Mr. PRESIDENT—Simply a concession.

Mr. POLLOCK thought it was somewhat irregular for the Board to say they would not take action under any circumstances in any case which fell under the notice of the Board.

The PRESIDENT said it was only intended not to take action with regard to offices and accountants' rooms.

Mr. POLLOCK thought they should not pass a resolution binding themselves not to take action in any such cases if they had power to take action by law.

Mr. FUNG WA CHUN—But we can move a concession.

On the motion of the PRESIDENT, the Board went into committee to consider the Memoranda referred to.

On resuming, Mr. RUMJAHN withdrew his motion on the understanding that no action be taken in the cases mentioned unless the Medical Officer of Health thought it necessary.

PROSECUTIONS.

The PRESIDENT moved "(1) That the Board, under the provisions of Section 30 of the Public Health and Buildings Ordinance, 1903, depute Dr. Barnett to institute summary proceedings before a Magistrate against any person contravening any of the Bye-laws duly made under Section 16 of the Public Health and Buildings Ordinance, 1903; (2) That the Board, under the provisions of Section 256 of the Public Health and Buildings Ordinance, 1903, depute Dr. Barnett to institute summary proceedings before a Magistrate for the recovery of any penalty imposed by Part II of the said Ordinance or any Bye-laws made thereunder." The motion, he said, was made necessary on account of the arrival in the Colony of Dr. Barnett, Assistant Medical Officer of Health, who had come in connection with the plague scheme.

The VICE-PRESIDENT seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

MOSQUITO BREEDING-PLACES.

Mr. H. E. POLLOCK, K.C., moved "That, with a view to diminish the breeding grounds for mosquitoes, it is desirable that the lower portions of the street gullies be filled up with cement concrete, and that the Government be requested to take prompt measures for carrying out such work." Mr. Pollock, continuing, said he thought it probable that members had read the letter in the *Daily Press* from Mr. E. K. Leigh, who was formerly a member of the Board, on the subject. The street gullies referred to were really a sort of basin or receptacle underneath the street gratings at the corners of the streets, and their object, so far as there was any object at all, was to prevent sand or silt being washed into the storm-water drains. But it was quite clear that these receptacles held a considerable quantity of water—one measured near the Central Market at Mr. Leigh's request was found to hold some fourteen gallons of stagnant water—and it followed that such a receptacle would be an excellent place for the breeding of mosquitoes. So far as he could see, said Mr. Pollock, these receptacles holding this dirty water did not serve a sufficiently useful purpose to justify their continuance, and should be filled up with cement concrete in such a manner as to give the water a clear fall into the drains.

Mr. LAU CHU PAK seconded the motion and suggested that if the gullies could not be filled in with cement concrete some other device should be adopted to remedy the evil complained of.

The VICE-PRESIDENT said that before the Board committed itself to the motion he should like to mention that the question of reconstructing all the street gullies was at present under consideration. It had been decided to adopt a new form of gully which would do away with the stagnant water to which Mr. Pollock had referred, although not entirely. It would be in the recollection of some of the members of the Board that some time ago a motion was passed requesting the Government to insert traps in all these street gratings, so that the foul air should not be able to pass from the sewers or drains to the open air, and the new form of gully provided for a trap of that description. The water they contained, however, would be less than that held by the present gullies. It would be obvious, if the present gullies were to be entirely abolished, that it was useless to expend a very considerable sum of money—probably not less than a couple of thousand dollars—in filling in these receptacles. The construction of the gullies had been proceeding for some time, and therefore he would suggest that the motion be withdrawn. Otherwise, concluded the Vice-President, he would have been very pleased to support it.

The PRESIDENT mentioned that the Senior Inspectors had been instructed to put Jeye's Fluid into the water in this cess-pits, which would effectually kill any larvae in the water.

Mr. FUNG WA CHUN—Why not flush them every day?

The PRESIDENT—Because it has been found that a small quantity of Jeye's Fluid is sufficient to kill the larvae in the water.

Mr. POLLOCK—I should like to ask, sir, where it is these new traps are being laid—in what district?

The VICE-PRESIDENT—There have been several laid, sir, in the neighbourhood of Queen's Road Central and Connaught Road. The work will shortly be proceeded with vigorously, I hope.

Mr. POLLOCK—I would also like to know, sir, when the work is likely to be finished?

The VICE-PRESIDENT—I should say it will take about eighteen months or two years.

Mr. POLLOCK—Surely what I suggest could be done in a much shorter time than that. Eighteen months will take us into the next two summers, and it is not desirable that this work should wait so long as that.

The VICE-PRESIDENT—It must, of course, take some time to do even what Mr. Pollock suggests, because the staff available for supervising such work is very limited, and work of that nature must be supervised or else it might be done in such a way that the material used would be destroyed and the whole work rendered practically useless.

The PRESIDENT—I understand that \$32,000 have been included in the Estimates this year for this work.

The VICE-PRESIDENT—Yes.

The motion was put to the meeting and lost, four voting for it and five against.

LICENCE TO SELL PORK.

An application was made by Chung Hing, 71, To Kwa Wan, for a license to sell pork at that address.

The PRESIDENT in moving that the application be granted stated that such applications were now granted by the Board. The premises had been inspected by the Veterinary Surgeon, who recommended the granting of the license.

Mr. FUNG WA CHUN seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

LIMEWASHING.

The limewashing return showed that during the fortnight ended 4th inst. 1,110 houses in the Central district had been treated.

RAT RETURN.

A report was submitted showing that during the weeks ended 13th and 20th inst. 3,876 and 3,392 rats were destroyed. Of these 336 were found to be infected.

THE SHAIKIWAN PAINT-WORKS.

Further correspondence was laid on the table with reference to paint-works at Shaukiwan, in connection with which sanitary objections had been put forward on the ground that the living

quarters might be rendered dangerous to health by their contiguity to the white-lead store or works.

The Acting M.O.H. minuted that these were white-lead works, the process employed being a modification of the Dutch process. Danger arose in this process of plumbism from the inhalation of fine white-lead dust by the workmen. To reduce this to a minimum the stacked-up sheets of lead covered with the white carbonate should be moistened before the stack is taken down, and the white carbonate scraped off the sheets while thoroughly moist. After the white-lead is washed it should not be dried before packing so completely as to render it dusty. The quarters above the store at the works were used now for storing cases in which lead had been packed. This should be stopped at once. In fact it would be advisable not to allow these quarters to be used for domestic purposes.

The P.C.M.O. minuted that the room to be used for quarters should not be used for storing cases containing, or which had contained, white-lead. If this were complied with he thought a certificate of occupation might be granted.

The PRESIDENT moved that a certificate of occupation be granted on the conditions mentioned in the above paragraph.

Colonel WEBB seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

A HEALTHY VILLAGE.

Correspondence was laid on the table relative to the old Tai Hang Village.

With reference to the scheme of improvements proposed by Dr. Clark, His Excellency the Governor had asked for the health returns of the village for the past two years.

The Acting M.O.H. reported under date 1st ult. that only one case of infectious disease (small-pox) had occurred in the Tai Hang village during 1901, 1902 and 1903.

His Excellency wrote that this did not seem at all a pressing matter. He wished that one could make the other portions of Hongkong as healthy as Tai Hang Village.

The P.C.M.O. minuted that he understood that the improvement scheme was initiated by the M.O.H. to improve the general sanitary condition of the village—not because of any special outbreak of disease.

PROVISION OF BACKYARDS.

There was submitted a further letter from Messrs. Humphreys & Co. in connection with certain houses in Berkeley and Market Streets, Hunghom, for which exemption was asked from the provisions of the new Building Bill with reference to backyards.

Messrs. Humphreys submitted as a further plea for exemption that (1) the houses were built in accordance with the building regulations in existence at the time of their construction and were duly passed by the Board and the P.W.D.; (2) to comply with the notices by providing window-space in the rear of the main building it would be necessary to do away with half the existing kitchen-space and thus infringe the Ordinance relating thereto; and (3) exemption had been granted in other cases where a Government lane provided the open space required under the Ordinance.

The Acting M.O.H. minuted that he was not prepared to reconsider his former recommendation in this matter. From a sanitary point of view he had nothing to do with the ease or difficulty with which required open space could be provided, nor with the expense the owners were put to. With regard to the statement that by complying with one section of the Ordinance—namely, that requiring yards to be provided—another section would be infringed—namely, that requiring each kitchen to be 50 square feet—he might say that it was possible to open out half the present kitchen and reconstruct the house so as to enlarge what would then be left of the original kitchen to an area of 50 square feet without encroaching on the yard provided under Section 175. The reason why he was not prepared to treat these houses in the same way as many others which he had recommended for exemption in Hunghom was that in the case of those other houses yards already existed, while the houses referred in the petition had no yards at all. The other houses were of two stories while these were of three stories. The Government lane between the two rows of houses concerned was therefore bounded

on two sides by three-storied houses without any yards at all. As the lane was only a ten-foot one he was not prepared to recommend exemption.

In reference to the original correspondence in this matter, Mr. Rumjahn and Mr. Lau Chu Pak both expressed the opinion, in the form of a minute, that the Board in summoning the owners for not complying with the Ordinance had acted irregularly.

The PRESIDENT called on the Acting Medical Officer of Health to make a statement in the matter.

Dr. PEARSE said it appeared that the original letter requiring these houses to be provided with backyards was sent out on 21st January. Two months elapsed before the owners took any notice of that letter. No exemption was asked for and no work had been done. At the end of these two months it was represented to him by the Inspector at Hunghom that no notices were being taken of the letter and he gave instructions to prosecute. That was on 24th March. After instructions for prosecution had been given a letter was sent in by the owners asking for exemption. It was too late in coming to prevent the summons going on. In fact the first time his attention was called to the letter was at the Police Court, where it was represented by the legal adviser of the owners as being an extraordinary thing that the Board had summoned the owners on the very day they had sent in the letter. Of course that was not so, as the summons was taken out on his instructions to prosecute, given on the 24th. However he consented to an adjournment *sine die*, but as he said in his report he did not feel himself in a position to recommend that this exemption should be granted for the reasons stated therein.

The PRESIDENT said it would be noted that the notice referred to by Mr. Rumjahn was a letter sent to Messrs. Humphreys by the Board. There was no obligation on the Board to issue this letter, therefore it was quite regular for the Board to take proceedings under the new Bill. Nearly two months elapsed between the sending of the original letter and the taking out of the summons. With reference to open spaces, there could be no doubt that backyards were open spaces; but all open spaces were not backyards. If that were so, Queen's Road, being an open space, would be a backyard. The Acting Medical Officer of Health could not recommend these houses for exemption and he thought the Board would do well to follow his advice. He therefore moved that the application be refused, and that Messrs. Humphreys be informed that the work must be put in hand at once.

The VICE-PRESIDENT seconded. He might mention that there had been a great outcry about the great amount of overcrowding that went on and about people building over all their available land and so producing an insanitary state of affairs. The Board had now obtained powers that enabled them to somewhat modify that state of affairs, and it would be a very mistaken policy, in his opinion, if they did not enforce those powers wherever there was any ground for supposing that they would lead to improvement. In this particular case the amount of open space in the rear seemed to be very small in relation to the depth of the buildings, and if they passed over this case they must be prepared to deal similarly with almost an unlimited number of similar cases.

Mr. RUMJAHN proceeded to quote from Ordinance 18 of 1901, section 55, sub-section A, to prove that backyards were open spaces, and that open spaces had already been provided to the houses.

Capt. LYONS—That Ordinance has been repealed, hasn't it?

Mr. RUMJAHN—Yes.

Capt. LYONS—Then what is the good of reading from an obsolete Ordinance? It is a waste of time, I think.

Mr. RUMJAHN proceeded to show where other houses similarly placed had been exempted from complying with the Ordinance. A particular case was that of I.L. 1591, situated at the corner of Wing Lok Street and Des Voeux Road.

The VICE-PRESIDENT—The case we are dealing with is this particular case in Hunghom, and I don't think we should consider other cases in other parts of the Colony.

Mr. RUMJAHN was continuing on the same lines of argument when

The PRESIDENT said—Really it does no good, as the Director of Public Works has said, discussing properties other than the one we are dealing with.

After further remarks Mr. RUMJAHN proposed that the summons against the Humphreys Estate Company be withdrawn.

The PRESIDENT—You have already proposed an amendment that the application be granted.

Mr. RUMJAHN—Yes, and also that the summons be withdrawn.

The PRESIDENT—One at a time, please.

In answer to Mr. FUNG WA CHUN, Dr. PEARSE said that no such houses as these under discussion had been granted exemption from complying with the provisions of the Ordinance.

The amendment for granting the application was lost, the mover and secondor, being the only members in favour of it. They voted against the PRESIDENT's motion, which was carried by a majority.

DRAINAGE CONTRACTS.

There was laid on the table a minute by the Sanitary Surveyor (Mr. J. J. Bryan) recommending that certain Chinese contractors be approved of by the Board to carry out drainage works under Section 191 of Ordinance No. 1 of 1903.

On the motion of the PRESIDENT, seconded by the VICE-PRESIDENT, the contracts were approved.

THE DEATH RATE.

It was reported that the death-rate for the week ended 28th ult. was 25.7 per 1,000 of the population per annum as compared with 36.1 in the previous week and 26.4 in the corresponding week of last year.

PLAGUE BYE-LAWS.

The standing orders having been suspended, the PRESIDENT moved that outlying districts where plague had occurred be defined so as to enable the necessary steps to be taken for dealing with the disease.

The VICE-PRESIDENT seconded, and the motion was adopted.

This was all the public business.

SEVERE FAMINE IN KWANGSI.

GOVERNOR CALLS A PUBLIC MEETING.

At the conclusion of the formal business on the 20th inst. of the Legislative Council, His Excellency the Governor, Sir Henry A. Blake, G.C.M.G., drew attention to the state of famine existing in the Province of Kwangsi.

HIS EXCELLENCY said—Gentlemen, there is a matter which has come before me lately which I should like to mention to you. On the 17th a letter was received by me, sent by the Bishop of Victoria, asking my assistance in the matter of what was apparently a grievous state of famine existing in the Province of Kwangsi. I made some further enquiries and I found a great difference of opinion as to the question whether there is this great distress in the Province, but the next day I found, on consulting the Consulate at Wuchow, that what was said was correct—that the famine was very pitiable. I spoke yesterday to most of you and to the Bishop on the subject, and he has sent me letters from his missionaries which go to show the same thing; and to-day I asked the head of one of our largest business houses to communicate with some hong or Chinese merchants from that Province and he wrote to me to say that there was a state of famine and that people were dying of starvation, and selling their wives and their children. An American missionary, Mr. Hess from Kwaiping, whom I saw to-day said the same thing. He says there is a pitiable state of affairs in Kwangsi. I have determined to invite the people of Hongkong to subscribe for the relief of the famine and I think the best thing to do is to lay the matter before you now and to ask you gentlemen and any others who will interest themselves in the matter to attend a meeting here on Thursday next at half-past twelve o'clock, which I think is the most convenient hour for business men. I have asked Mr. Hess to be present and I shall lay before the meeting on that occasion all the information that has been given to me on the

Subject, and it will be for the gentlemen present to say what they think of it. I have no doubt that, if it is borne in upon the people of Hongkong that there is any necessity for assistance, Hongkong will be as ready to assist in this instance as it has always been ready to assist in any charitable work. I hope hon. members will kindly notice this and I request that any person who takes an interest in this matter will kindly meet us here at half-past twelve on Thursday next.

The Council then adjourned.

LOCAL RELIEF MEASURES.

A meeting at which H.E. the Governor presided was held in the Council Chamber at half-past twelve o'clock on the 23rd inst. to consider means to relieve as far as possible the state of famine at present existing in several parts of the province of Kwangsi. The attendance was good, and included the Hon. F. H. May, C.M.G., Hon. Sir H. S. Berkeley, Hon. Sir C. P. Chater, C.M.G., Hon. Gershom Stewart, Hon. R. Shewan, Hon. Dr. Ho Kai, C.M.G., Hon. Dr. Atkinson, Hon. R. Murray Rumsey, Hon. Wei A. Yuk, Ven. Archdeacon W. Banister, the Reverend T. W. Pearce, C. H. Hickling, Hess, and Southam, Lieut. Col. Candy, 14th Burmas, Messrs. Ho Fook, Fung Wa Chun, Lau Chu Pak, A. Rumjahn, Tung Loi Tsun, Tang Lau Hop, Yiu Wai Chi, Ng Pak-to, Sin Un Fai, Lam Tsun Tak, Li Shiu Wai, Chan Kan Ming, Chiu Sik Yin, and Li Chuk Yu. Lady Blak and Mrs. F. H. May were also present.

Addressing the meeting, His EXCELLENCY said: "Ladies and gentlemen, I have asked you to meet me here to-day for the purpose of laying before you some facts brought to my notice with reference to the famine existing in portions of the province of Kwangsi. On the 17th inst. there was submitted to me a letter written to the Bishop of Victoria by Mr. Byrde, of Wuchow, in which he declared that in certain districts of the province of Kwangsi famine existed, that the people had no food, that their rice crops had failed for two years, that they were dying of hunger, and that they were selling women and children into slavery to save their lives. I made some enquiries from Mr. Fox, the Consul at Wuchow, who was in Hongkong on that day, and I heard from him a confirmation of the statement made by Mr. Byrde. I then communicated with Bishop Piazzoli, who was kind enough to make enquiries among his missionaries in Nanning. One very gentleman wrote to him, and here are some extracts from his letter:—

"Father Poulat, of the district of Kolu Yun, wrote to me in October, 1902: 'Rice is already selling at more than eight piastres the 100 Chinese litre. The famine is horrible for our poor peasants, already tried and impoverished by the rebellion. Those who are more daring go out to pillage in order to live and our Christians are polluted like the rest.' In November he wrote to me, 'I almost envy your lot. At any rate you have not, like me, the pain of being present without being able to prevent the slow agony of so many poor people who are dying of hunger. I am daily besieged and implored by numbers of unfortunates who, having nothing to eat either at home or abroad, come to entreat me to help them and to give them something to eat to prevent their dying. Even after having had a little rice and somewhat regained strength they refuse to go away telling me they cannot endure seeing their families struggling with hunger.' Then he goes on to make several statements with reference to the absence of rice and the presence of famine, and from the statements of various missionaries brings the situation down to the present time.

Well, gentlemen, I even went further, because I was anxious not to make any move in this matter until I had satisfied myself that there really was such a state of famine existing in Kwangsi as would justify me in coming before the people of Hongkong and asking them to subscribe for its alleviation. Mr. Ho Fook was kind enough to make enquiries through some hongs in Kwangsi, and he writes as follows:—

"I have sent to the Wing Chui Yuen, Fook On Cheong and Kwan Mow firms, which do a considerable business with Kwangsi, and learn that the famine in that province is very bad.

The rice crops for the last two years have failed owing to drought and instead of exporting rice as in former years the people have had to import it and the price they are paying is about twice as much as they should pay for the same thing in Hongkong. In addition to the short crops they have been plundered by rebels and then by soldiers who are sent up to suppress the rebellion. They are selling their children in order to save both themselves and their children from starvation. The Tung Wa Hospital has remitted two sums of \$1,000 each."

Well, I found on enquiry that the Tung Wa Hospital had been approached in this matter, because that really was the barometer that would show me whether the Chinese were in such distress that they felt compelled to ask for assistance in Hongkong, and I noticed that, with its usual charity, the Tung Wa Hospital sent \$1,000 on 27th March, another \$1,000 on 6th April, and I believe \$2,000 are being sent by the Tung Wa Hospital to-day. (Applause.) Now, gentlemen, that seems to me to be a considerable amount of confirmation of what has been said with reference to the famine, but I went still further, for I thought it was well we should have somebody connected with ourselves who would write and tell us what he observed in Kwangsi. So two days ago I requested Mr. Clementi to proceed to Kwangsi and to report direct to me what he observed, the extent of the famine, and his advice as to the best method of distributing any funds that might be collected, and as in a case of this kind we cannot wait for public meetings, I authorised him to expend at once \$1,000, if necessary, for any immediate necessities that came under his observation. I have not heard from Mr. Clementi yet, but I shall probably hear from him to-day or to-morrow. I gave him absolute authority and left it to his own discretion to visit whatever part of the province he thought well. I have asked the Consul to place him in communication with the Chinese authorities, and I have no doubt they will offer him any assistance that may be necessary in the prosecution of his investigations. I may tell you that Messrs. Butterfield & Swire have kindly undertaken to take him up to Foochow and back, and the Chinese Telegraphs have undertaken that all messages on famine business shall be sent free. I might add that Mr. Clementi himself has declined to accept any payment of expenses incurred in connection with his mission. (Applause.) I have here a letter which I think I had better read to you. It is from Mr. Ho Tong, whose presence I was anxious to have here to-day. He writes from Macao on the 22nd inst.:—

"Your favour of even date reached me this evening. Owing to absence from Hongkong I regret my inability to attend the meeting at the Council Chamber to-morrow. I shall, however, be most happy to associate myself with the charitable work which your Excellency is so kindly going to initiate, and to request you to put my name down in the subscription list for the sum of \$1,000." (Applause.)

Now, gentlemen, the Rev. Mr. Hess, who has come down, I think, from Kwaiping, is present, and I shall ask him to be kind enough to tell us what has come under his own observation in this matter.

Thus invited, the Rev. Mr. Hess, of the Christian and Missionary Alliance, detailed what he personally knew of the famine, laying before the meeting facts that have already been published, and all of which went to show how grievous is the state of the people in the afflicted districts.

HIS EXCELLENCY said there were three things that remained to be settled—(1) the extent of the famine, (2) the collection of relief funds, and (3) the distribution of those funds. For the carrying-out of these items he proposed the following committee:—Colonial Secretary, the Registrar General, Sir Paul Chater, Messrs. Dickson, Gershom Stewart, R. Shewan, J. R. M. Smith, D. R. Law, N. A. Seibs, Shellim, A. J. Raymond, H. N. Mody, C. Michelan, Dr. Ho Kai, Wei Yuk, Fung Wa Chun, Ho Tung, Chan Shiu Kee and Ho Fook. Hon. Dr. Ho Kai proposed that the gentlemen whose names had been read out be elected as a committee, and that the name of His Excellency as President be added.

Hon. WEI A YUK seconded.

Archdeacon BANISTER said that, with regard to what Mr. Hess had said, he himself had just returned from Wuchow, and from enquiries he made up there was fully persuaded that the statements that had been made were true in every particular.

HIS EXCELLENCY said that as there were no dissentients he would take it that the Committee had been elected as proposed. He had great pleasure in accepting the position of President of the Committee, and would give any assistance he possibly could in the carrying-out of whatever might be necessary.

This closed the proceedings before the meeting, which dispersed after receiving His EXCELLENCY'S thanks.

The Committee met immediately afterwards and decided to send a telegram to Mr. Clementi at Wuchow appointing him the representative of the Committee and giving him full discretion regarding the distribution of assistance.

The steamers running to Wuchow have kindly offered to send up rice free of charge.

PROPOSED NEW LAW AGAINST STOWAWAYS.

The following is the complete text of the Bill (read a first time at the Legislative Council on the 20th inst.) entitled an Ordinance to provide for the more effectual prevention of frauds on owners and charterers of ships by stowaways, their aiders and abettors:—

Be it enacted by the Governor of Hongkong, with the advice and consent of the Legislative Council thereof, as follows:—

1. This Ordinance may for all purposes be cited as The Stowaways Ordinance, 1903.

2. Ordinance No. 22 of 1890, entitled "An Ordinance to amend the Chinese Emigration Consolidation Ordinance, 1899," and Ordinance No. 7 of 1897, entitled "An Ordinance to provide for the punishment of Stowaways arriving in this Colony," are hereby repealed.

3. Every person found on board any ship with intent to obtain a passage therein without the consent of the owner, charterer, agent, master or other person in charge thereof, and every person arriving in this Colony on board any ship who, without the consent of the owner, charterer, agent, master or other person in charge thereof, has obtained a passage therein, and the aider and abettor of every such person, shall respectively be liable on conviction by a Magistrate to a penalty not exceeding one thousand dollars and, at the discretion of the Magistrate, to imprisonment, with or without hard labour, for a period not exceeding nine calendar months.

4. Every person so on board any such ship may be detained and may be handed over to the Police and be taken without warrant before a Magistrate, and such Magistrate may, on proof of the offence, summarily convict such offender.

5. In every case coming within the provisions of this Ordinance the onus of proving the required consent shall lie upon the accused.

OBJECTS AND REASONS.

This Ordinance, which is very drastic in its provisions, is introduced as a last resort, in the hope that it will at once check and finally put an end to the at present constantly recurring cases of frauds on owners and charterers of ships by stowaways, principally between Hongkong and Manila.

The matter has been made the subject of communications to Government from several quarters, among others from the Chamber of Commerce. Various measures have been taken to stop stowing away, but all hitherto done has been insufficient to counteract the exceptional temptations to introduce Chinese into the Philippines.

In one case, that of the *Kaifong*, no less than 134 stowaways were found concealed on the vessel on her arrival at Cebu, a port in the Philippines. The ship's officers made a timely discovery of the stowaways, and reported the matter to the American Authorities, so escaping a very heavy fine for a breach of the stringent laws against the introduction of Chinese into the Islands. As it was, great delay and expense to the ship were occasioned, and the owners were obliged to enter into a bond for \$70,000 gold to take the stowaways back to Hongkong.

Under the law at present in force in Hong-kong a fine of \$500 or, in default of payment of the fine, six months' imprisonment with or without hard labour may be inflicted on each stowaway and his aider and abettor; but such a penalty has proved wholly inadequate in face of the large profits which are believed to attend the successful smuggling of Chinese into the Philippines, and in face of the fact that the stowing away is, it is believed, connived at and the profits shared in by members of the Chinese crew, stevedores, and brokers, and possibly sometimes by Europeans employed in or about the ship.

The fine imposed hitherto has always been paid at once, and it seems reasonably certain that there are persons connected with the business, as aiders and abettors, who are able and willing to pay occasional fines out of the profits accruing.

When legislation in the direction now proposed was suggested last year by the Chamber of Commerce the Government were unwilling to take the drastic measure suggested, and properly refused to do so until satisfied that the ship-owners had done all that they could to protect themselves, by requiring the officers of their ships to observe all reasonable precautions against stowing away.

It has now, however, become evident that nothing short of the fear of imprisonment will deter those hitherto engaged in this business of "running" Chinese into the Philippines. The Government have accordingly reconsidered the matter, and this Bill is introduced as a consequence of such reconsideration.

SUPREME COURT.

Friday, 17th April.

IN ORIGINAL JURISDICTION.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR SIR WILLIAM M. GOODMAN (CHIEF JUSTICE).

A CHARTER PARTY DISPUTE.

Judgment was given in the case in which Tam Long Chuen and another, ship charterers, carrying on business in co-partnership at 726, Des Vaux Road Central, sued J. E. von der Ohe for damages, the action having arisen out of the charter by the plaintiffs of the Norwegian s.s. *Sleipner*. The plaintiffs cancelled the charter party on the ground, as they alleged, that the steamer did not come up to the speed stipulated, and claimed damages accordingly. Defendant denied that there had been any breach of the conditions regarding speed and stated that if there had been it was caused by the foul condition of the ship's bottom and other defects; he further contended that even although there was failure on the part of the *Sleipner* to conform to speed conditions, such failure did not entitle plaintiffs to cancel the charter party, and he accordingly made a counter-claim for damages.

Mr. E. H. Sharp, K.C., barrister-at-law (instructed by Mr. F. B. L. Bowley of Messrs. Dennis and Bowley, solicitors), was counsel for the plaintiff; and Mr. L. Morgan Phillips, barrister-at-law (instructed by Mr. G. C. C. Master of Messrs. Johnson, Stokes and Master, solicitors), was for the defendant.

His Lordship in giving judgment said—In this case, the plaintiffs claim damages against the defendant for breach of a charter party alleged to have been committed by the owners of the Norwegian steamship *Sleipner*. The charter, which began on 27th January, 1902, was between the plaintiffs and the East Asiatic Trading Company, as agents for the defendant, and the captain of the *Sleipner*. It was a time charter for 12 months, and one of the conditions was that the *Sleipner's* speed should be about nine knots in fair weather, on a consumption of about 11 tons of best Cardiff coal per diem. The charter began to run at Bangkok. The *Sleipner*, which was built at Bergen in 1901, had not been out in these parts before, and, therefore, the charterers knew nothing of her except by the description in the particulars. The charter was arranged by Mr. Røge, of Lambke and Røge, and he got his particulars from the East Asiatic Trading Company, knowing nothing personally of the

vessel. On the 1st July, 1902, the plaintiffs cancelled the charter party on the ground that the ship failed to comply with the condition as to speed. This step was taken after the *Sleipner* had made several trips which, in the plaintiffs' opinion, showed, taking them altogether, that the *Sleipner* did not comply with the condition mentioned. The defendant alleges this cancellation to be wrongful, and counter-claims for damages. He denies the failure to perform the speed condition and further says that, if the *Sleipner* failed to perform such condition, such failure did not justify the plaintiffs in cancelling the charter party. Under the charter the plaintiffs were to pay 6,700 Mexican dollars a month for the use and hire of the steamer, and it is admitted that they duly paid that sum till the date of cancellation. The case was tried at considerable length, before me, occupying no less than seven days, and I do not think that any point which could assist the contentions of either side was omitted by the counsel who appeared for the respective parties. Ten witnesses were called by the plaintiffs and eight by the defendant, and the evidence was voluminous. The *Sleipner*, after being chartered, left Bangkok on her maiden voyage to Hongkong on the 3rd February, 1902, and she arrived at that port on the 26th, after having had to put into Saigon for additional coals on her way. According to the evidence of her master, Daniel Rodseth, she had on leaving Bangkok with a cargo of rice, 96 tons of English coal in her bunkers and 140 tons of Japanese, which they bought from a steamer. One would have expected that 236 tons would have brought her safely to Hongkong, a distance roughly of 1,500 miles (I think, in evidence, it was stated to be 1,497 miles). Naturally, she was likely to encounter a heavy monsoon at that season of the year, but if she had made an average of even five knots she ought to have done the trip in about 12½ days. One cannot be surprised that the charterers were vexed at having to pay an additional coal bill for \$4,350.25 for an extra 250 tons bought by the captain at Saigon. The captain, however, explained that after two days of fair weather, they experienced gales of wind for eight days and he deemed it safest to put into Saigon lest they should run short of coal. But it was proved that the *Germania*, which in her charter is described as a 9½ knot steamer, arrived in Hongkong from Bangkok the same day as the *Sleipner* (26th February) having left Bangkok on the 18th: that is to say, over a fortnight later than the Norwegian ship, and in ordinary circumstances it is at most an eight-days' voyage for ships of about the 9-knot class. Others did it in that time in February, 1902. However, at the interview Capt. Rodseth explained that the bad weather was the cause of it all and that really the *Sleipner* could do her 9 knots. According to the evidence the second voyage began on 2nd March and lasted till 19th May. It included trips to Saigon, thence to Singapore, back to Saigon, thence to Manila and Rejang, and finally back to Hongkong. On this voyage the performances of the *Sleipner* were better but on the whole much nearer eight knots than nine. This failure to come up to the speed condition was accounted for by the captain by allegation of bad coal. But it must not be forgotten that on 1st March, in sending the coal on board, the charterers wrote to the chief engineer: "We beg to send you 100 tons Cardiff coal and 70 tons Shikano lump coal, which we hope you will be good enough to weigh on board and receive it if it is in good condition, and also return to us the enclosed receipt by the bearer after you have signed it." It seems strange in face of that letter to have the second engineer describe in the witness-box that very coal as consisting of only four or five tons lump and all the rest like sand. The coal was very expensive coal and if it was nearly all like sand it should not have been received on board in face of that letter, at all events without telling the charterers at the time. On the 31st May, after the plaintiffs' solicitors had written the letter of 26th May, 1902, practically warning the agents that next trip would be treated as a final test, the third and last voyage began, counting the voyage up from Bangkok as the first. It was to Iloilo and back, and the speed was about 6.6 knots. But this the captain explained was owing to the want of dry docking, which had not been done since the

vessel left England the previous November. Indeed he wrote a letter dated the 26th May which he delivered to the charterers on the 27th May as follows:—"In consideration of your chartering the s.s. *Sleipner* on conditions that make it impossible to dry-dock the steamer when I find it necessary, you will please notice that the speed will be accordingly and all other consequences resulting therefrom be on your own risk and expense." The charterers cancelled the charter on 1st July and then the ship was docked, and no doubt at that time had a foul bottom, in spite of having been altogether somewhere about 20 days at Saigon during the charter in fresh water. The case for the charterers was that, at all events in the China Sea, the *Sleipner* (which is built, as Mr. Gordon put it, somewhat like a collier or barge and lacks the co-efficient of fineness required out here) is not a ship of about 9 knots in fair weather. After consideration of all the evidence, and the excuses as to coal and, on the last voyage, of foul bottom, I find as a fact that there was a substantial breach of the charter party condition as to speed and that the plaintiffs were, in all the circumstances, entitled to cancel the contract. It was, however, urged by Mr. Morgan Phillips that even if there was a failure of performance as to the speed condition, yet the plaintiffs had waived their right to cancel by not having done so at once, i.e., so soon as the vessel arrived from Bangkok or at all events at the end of the second voyage under the charter. No doubt it is the law that if the breach of a condition precedent is waived by one of the parties to a contract, by not repudiating the contract after he knows of such breach, the condition precedent is converted into a simple term of the contract and its breach only gives rise to an action for damages. But in the present case, it must be borne in mind that the defendant has all along denied that there ever was a breach, and, so far from admitting it, would have gone to law with the plaintiffs if they had repudiated the contract. Indeed he has now done so and counter-claims in this action. The plaintiffs were, surely, justified in continuing to employ the ship and pay the stipulated monthly sum for so doing, till they had given her a sufficient trial to enable them to establish that a breach had actually occurred and thus to show that they were entitled to cancel the charter party. It is contrary to common sense that the plaintiffs, having paid the full contract price for the use of the *Sleipner* for over five months, and been put to extra expense for coal, should be told that they must go on employing her till the end of the twelve months, because they were induced by the Captain's explanations and excuses as to the first and second voyages to give her a very full trial before cancelling the contract. The correspondence between the parties must not be forgotten. I am aware that much has been said on both sides which merits careful consideration, both as to the facts and the law, but, after giving the evidence and the legal arguments full consideration, I find that there has been a breach of the speed condition of the charter party of such a character as to defeat the commercial purpose of the charter party. I hold that the charterers were entitled to cancel and that there was no waiver of their right, having regard to all the circumstances, including the correspondence between the parties and their solicitors. The plaintiffs are, therefore, entitled to judgment with costs and, unless the parties can agree upon a sum, the amount had better be referred to some gentleman conversant with such matters. The parties, I understand, are not likely to have any difficulty in agreeing upon such a referee, but if they cannot agree, they had better mention the matter to me again, and I will arrange for the assessment of damages. In all the circumstances, I do not think they will be found to amount to anything in the least like the large amount claimed by the plaintiffs.

After delivering judgment His Lordship remarked that the case had given him a great deal of anxious thought and trouble. He thought the right course under all the circumstances would be for some sum—quite a small sum—to be agreed upon between the parties so that the defendant would be saved the expense of a reference. The plaintiffs were the winners.

and they might very fairly be merciful on the point of damages.

Mr. Sharp—Certainly, my Lord.

His Lordship added that with regard to the defendant he might mention that the expenses in the assessment of damages would naturally fall on him and therefore he thought it would be advisable on his part to agree to the payment of such small sum and save further expense in the matter.

The Court adjourned.

Saturday, 18th April.

IN CRIMINAL JURISDICTION.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR SIR WILLIAM M. GOODMAN (CHIEF JUSTICE).

A SERIOUS OFFENCE.

Lai Sun, a young-looking Chinese, was convicted of having committed a criminal assault upon a little girl at 25, Gough Street. The jury was as follows:—Messrs. C. Schuller, J. S. Bowman, G. S. Ford, J. Gloyn, C. Skott, J. Beggaridge and T. Christian.

Sir Henry S. Berkeley, Attorney-General, conducted the prosecution, instructed by Mr. F. B. L. Bowley, Crown Solicitor.

His Lordship passed sentence of two years' imprisonment with hard labour.

The father and mother of the child, by name Ho Hoi Mun and Tsang Tai, were convicted of complicity in the offence and were each sentenced to two years' imprisonment with hard labour.

The Chief Justice commended Inspector Hudson for the manner he had worked in the case.

Wednesday, 22nd April.

IN SUMMARY JURISDICTION.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR A. G. WISE (PUISNE JUDGE).

UNCLAIMED GARLIC.

The case was again called in which Leung Kam sued the Man Li Yuen firm, 6, Chiu Lung Street, for \$111, being rent at the rate of \$3 a day for one month and seven days for the use and occupation of premises at 6, Lee Yuen Street East.

Mr. E. J. Grist, of Messrs. Wilkinson & Grist, solicitors, appeared for the plaintiff. There was no appearance on behalf of the defendants.

His Lordship—I do not think this is the first case against the Man Li Yuen.

Mr. Grist—No, my Lord. I think they have bolted.

The plaintiff's rent-collector, examined, deposed that the defendants were tenants of 6, Lee Yuen Street East. They gave notice they were going to leave the premises and did leave, but left the place full of goods.

At this stage Mr. John Hays of Messrs. Johnson, Stokes & Master, solicitors, who had appeared for the plaintiff last Friday, came into Court and, addressing his Lordship, said that he had had no further instructions in the matter but was told in the office that the case had been settled.

His Lordship—Of course I do not know anything of that.

Mr. Grist—Yes—the case has been settled, but the money has not been paid.

On the evidence being resumed, witness deposed further that they had let the premises to another party, who however refused to take possession until the defendant's goods were turned out. The goods were still there.

Mr. Grist remarked that there had been no course left open to them but to sue for this amount, as they could not throw the goods on to the street.

His Lordship—It is a very strange thing that in this Colony goods should be knocking about without apparent owners. I should have thought there would have been half-a-dozen claimants.

Mr. Grist—The goods are garlic, I understand.

His Lordship—Judgment with costs.

The Court adjourned.

Thursday, 23rd April.

IN BANKRUPTCY.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR SIR HENRY S. BERKELEY (ACTING CHIEF JUSTICE).

A COMPOSITION.

Mr. E. J. Grist, of Messrs. Wilkinson & Grist, solicitors, appeared in support of an application by O. M. Madar for approval of a composition scheme. This was an application, he said, on behalf of the Official Receiver and of the debtor for approval of a composition passed and confirmed at a special meeting of the creditors, to be sanctioned by the Court. The debtor proposed to pay \$40 a month to the Official Receiver, which would allow of a composition of about 50 per cent.

His Lordship approved the composition.

AN IRREGULARITY.

Ng Sheung and Ng Kam Tong, trading as the Shing Kee firm, made an application for adjudication in bankruptcy.

Mr. Grist, who appeared in support of the application, said it was made under Section 19 of Ordinance No. 20 of 1891.

His Lordship—It is a debtors' petition, and now you apply for adjudication?

Mr. Grist said it was an application in the usual form, and that the Official Receiver be appointed trustee in the bankruptcy. There was an affidavit filed by Mr. d'Almada, the solicitor in the case, for whom he appeared, in which it was stated that on 13th March the creditors resolved to adjudicate the debtors bankrupt and to nominate the Official Receiver trustee.

His Lordship—A public examination has not been held in this matter?

Mr. Grist—No.

His Lordship remarked that he thought a public examination ought to be held before the application was made. He understood that had not always been the case, and there were cases in which the Court might make an order for adjudication without a public examination; but it would be seen at once that there ought to be a public examination before adjudication. After the debtor had filed his statement of affairs he should be publicly examined in open Court in order to test the statement of affairs. It did not follow necessarily that a man who was bankrupt on the face of his statement of affairs was shown to be bankrupt after being publicly examined.

Mr. Grist—That is perfectly true, but I believe that it is only very recently in practice here that this has ever come before the Court—the question, I mean, as to the time in which a man should be adjudicated bankrupt.

His Lordship—I will tell you the time—when he appears to the Court to be bankrupt.

Mr. Grist—Yes, my Lord; but the inconvenience of waiting until after the statement of affairs has been lodged and until after the examination has been held is very great for many reasons, particularly in Hongkong. The Official Receiver can simply take possession of the property and can do nothing further. He cannot attempt in any way to get in the estate. He cannot sell anything or do anything whatsoever; and until the estate is placed in the possession of a trustee it is almost impossible for the statement of affairs to be verified in any way or for the Official Receiver to conduct a public examination.

His Lordship—There are powers in the Ordinance by which the trustee may be permitted to appear on the public examination, but *prima facie* the duty of conducting the public examination is on the Official Receiver *qua* Official Receiver.

Mr. Grist—Perfectly true, but the difficulty is very great of getting a statement of affairs in Hongkong. The Official Receiver takes possession of the property of the debtor.

His Lordship—But I cannot make any man bankrupt until I am satisfied he is bankrupt, and I cannot be satisfied of that until he is publicly examined, unless, as I said, under special circumstances.

Addressing Mr. Bruce Shepherd, the Official Receiver,

His Lordship asked—When can you hold a public examination, Mr. Shepherd, and why have you not held it before?

The Official Receiver—It has been impossible to hold it before. There has not been any statement of affairs filed.

His Lordship—It is quite impossible for me to hold a public examination and declare a man bankrupt before he has lodged a statement of affairs. After reading the section of the Ordinance quoted by Mr. Grist, his Lordship continued—The whole Ordinance contemplates that adjudication shall be made after the conclusion of the examination of the debtor.

Mr. Grist—With the greatest deference, I do not read it so myself. The property cannot in any way be realised.

His Lordship—The moment the receiving order is given the Official Receiver and the creditors should be diligent in seeing that the property is got in, should hold a meeting of creditors at the earliest possible moment, a statement of affairs should be called for and, with the assistance if necessary of the Official Receiver, should be made up and filed as soon as possible; and as soon as possible the latter a public examination should take place. I must have a statement of affairs before I can adjudicate a man bankrupt. There being no statement of affairs and no public examination having been held, I cannot grant this application for adjudication. Adjourned.

The Official Receiver—I do not know that anything can be done in this case.

His Lordship—Kindly make a report to that effect, Mr. Shepherd. I make this note: "There being no statement of affairs and no public examination having yet taken place, I hold that I cannot make an order for adjudication in the estate. Adjourned *sine die*." I would suggest for the future that before making an application to me for adjudication in bankruptcy you will see that there is a statement of affairs and that a public examination has been held.

The Official Receiver—That would do, your Lordship, in the case of a debtor's petition; but in the case of a creditor's petition that would be another matter.

His Lordship—I require them both.

Mr. Grist—Supposing that there is a creditor's petition, the usual grounds of a creditor's petition are no doubt that the debtor has absconded.

His Lordship—The usual ground is that he owes so much money and does not pay it.

Mr. Grist—But it is quite possible that there cannot be a statement of affairs, and there should be a public examination.

His Lordship—There cannot be a public examination if he has absconded.

Mr. Grist—Nor a statement of affairs.

His Lordship—But it is not the case here. However we need not discuss that. There may be exceptional circumstances in which adjudication should be made, but that is not the case here. Next case.

AN ABSCONDING DEBTOR.

In re the Wong On firm *ex parte* the debtors, Mr. G. K. Hall Brutton, of Messrs. Mounsey & Brutton, solicitors, appeared in support of an application for adjudication in bankruptcy.

Mr. Brutton said the circumstances were very much the same as had been stated in the last case, but he was in hopes that his Lordship would hold that here the circumstances were exceptional. The debtor had absconded. He had tried his utmost to get hold of him but it was absolutely impossible to do so.

His Lordship—You mean the man who is the debtor has absconded?

Mr. Brutton—He has gone away.

His Lordship—Then I dismiss the petition.

Mr. Brutton pointed out that such a proceeding would be hard on the creditors. If the petition was granted they had a chance of getting something; if it was dismissed they would get nothing. In this case even although his Lordship did not order the bankrupt to be adjudicated, he would ask that the Official Receiver be appointed trustee. The Receiver was now in possession of the property; it was there in his hands and yet he could do nothing with it. The bankrupt was not here and there could be no public examination. He would ask therefore that his Lordship make an order for the sale of the property for the benefit of the creditors, or let this case be an exception and adjudicate the debtor bankrupt.

His Lordship—Where does it appear that he has absconded?

Mr. Brutton—It does not appear in any affidavit.

His Lordship—Then how do I know?

Mr. Brutton—I have tried to get the man and he is not to be found. Your Lordship will appreciate the difficulty we have with these debtors. They have simply to go on board a steamer and get away.

His Lordship—But there is no evidence that he has absconded. There is no affidavit. I will adjourn this case, and you must come before me in strict accordance with the lines I have laid down.

Mr. Brutton—It is an entirely new practice here.

His Lordship—It is known now that I must have it. How can I know that a man is bankrupt without a statement of affairs. If he files a statement stating his bankruptcy and clears out I am not to know that that statement is correct.

Mr. Brutton—That is an act of bankruptcy and he is liable under the Bankruptcy Laws and is a bankrupt to all intents and purposes.

His Lordship—He is committing an act of bankruptcy on which he may be made bankrupt if he appears to be bankrupt; but the Court must be shown that he is insolvent. You cannot make a man bankrupt if he is possessed of wealth sufficient to pay all his debts.

Mr. Grist—It is frequently done at home.

His Lordship—Show me an authority.

Mr. Grist—I cannot do so right at the moment.

His Lordship—I will adjourn this case and when it is next called perhaps you will be prepared with an authority.

Mr. Brutton—Will your Lordship make an order for sale of the property. A resolution was passed by the creditors that the property then in the hands of the Official Receiver should be sold.

His Lordship—If the creditors desire that, I shall do it if I can, but I am not clear that I can until I have made him bankrupt. You cannot sell a man's property until he is bankrupt. You must prepare the way. Show me on the statement of affairs and after a public examination that the man is insolvent or put before me such a statement of affairs as will justify the adjudication. You say the man has absconded. There is no evidence as to that. I will adjourn this case. If you cannot get the debtor by reason of his running away a statement should be got by the Official Receiver. He has access to the papers and must make up the statement. The Act gives the Official Receiver power to compel the debtor to give him every assistance; when the debtor goes away he must do it himself.

The Official Receiver—I have employed two experienced Chinese accountants in the shop itself, and they cannot even make out a proper statement of affairs from the books.

His Lordship—Until I get a proper statement of affairs I cannot give this adjudication. I must have a statement of affairs. I quite appreciate Mr. Bruce Shepherd's position and sympathise with him, but that does not make my duty any easier.

The case was adjourned *sine die*.

GONE AWAY.

In the matter of Wong Fat Hing *ex parte* Wong Hoi Shan, petitioning creditor, Mr. F. C. Barlow of Messrs. Deacon & Hastings, solicitors, appeared in support of the petition for a receiving order on the estate of the debtor, who had gone away from the Colony.

The affidavits being duly in order,

His Lordship granted the application and appointed Mr. Bruce Shepherd Official Receiver on the estate.

RECEIVING ORDER.

Mr. Brutton appeared in support of a debtor's petition for a receiving order on the estate of Wong Cheuk Yau.

After hearing the affidavits read,

His Lordship granted the application and appointed Mr. Bruce Shepherd Official Receiver on the estate.

The Court adjourned.

Lieut. Arthur W. G. Ridings, R.M.A., serving on the battleship *Ocean*, on the China station, has been promoted to captain, from the 8th ult.

CORRESPONDENCE.

MOSQUITOES AND THEIR BREEDING-POOLS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

Hongkong, 17th April.

SIR,—Now that the Government are expending a considerable sum of money in training gullies, draining swamps, etc., in order to destroy mosquitoes, and calling upon the public to aid them in their endeavour, I would like to draw attention to the excellent breeding-grounds provided for these insects in the street gullies which are evenly distributed throughout all our streets.

These gullies consist of earthenware receptacles about 15 inches diameter by 30 inches deep and stand constantly full of dirty water for a depth of about 20 inches, thus retaining about 14 gallons.

This water lies in the gullies and stagnates, nor does it fulfil any part in trapping the gullies, which as a matter of fact are untrapped.

The only use of prolonging the earthenware receptacle below the overflow is the notion of retaining the silt that is washed off the roads, but in practice it will be found that during light rains little or no silt is washed into them, and in heavy rains it is carried through with the rush of water.

I have had occasion recently to open several of these gully-gratings and have been met by a rush of mosquitoes, and an examination of the dirty water showed it to be full of mosquito larvae.

These numerous cesspits of dirty water are also in a great measure accountable for the bad smells met with in our streets, and I would strongly advise the doing away with any form of gully which retains water. This could be done to the present gullies at a minimum of cost by simply filling up the lower portion with cement concrete.—Yours, etc.,

R. K. LEIGH,

Mem. Inst. C.E.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE DAILY PRESS."

Hongkong, 23rd April.

SIR,—Mr. Leigh's admirable letter under the above caption, which appeared in your issue of the 20th inst. calls attention to, and demonstrates the impossibility of exterminating malarial mosquitoes so long as hundreds of street "gullies" are, as now, allowed to hold foul and stagnant water. Now, Sir, this is a clear, definite cause of evil, which is easily remediable, and I write to ask if anything has been or is going to be done? And if not, why not?

Surely our citizens should be encouraged by our Sanitary and other authorities in thus pointing out such curable causes of disease.—Yours, etc.,

PROMPT AND PRACTICAL.

[We observe that Mr. H. E. Pollock, K.C., is bringing the subject before the Sanitary Board to-day in the form of a resolution affirming the desirability of filling up the lower portions of the street gullies with cement concrete, and requesting the Government to take prompt measures for carrying out such work.—Ed. D.P.]

THE TRIAD SOCIETY.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

Hongkong, 23rd April.

SIR,—The much abused and, to Foreigners, mysterious "Triad" Society is not an unlawful Society as is so generally preached and believed in this Colony and elsewhere. It is in reality a Patriotic Organisation or "League of Patriots" founded in the beginning of the usurping Manchu "Ching" Dynasty by retired high "Ming" officials, scholars and monks, for the restoration of the "Ming" Dynasty. Since its foundation to the present day, over 200 years, the movement has progressed and flourished most amazingly, its adherents now consisting of officials and people of all classes from the common coolie to the man of means. The organisation has branches in the Eighteen Provinces of the Empire working under different Lodge names and the members now number millions. They are only waiting for the leader who will come forward and unite them. The organisation is not inimical to the Hongkong

Government and, therefore, is not unlawful or erroneously reported and believed. In fact, its members claim and exact the protection which is granted to all political refugees throughout the civilised world and particularly in England. Should not the Hongkong Government act likewise?

In justice to the patriots of China this most unreasonable, injurious and obnoxious *Old Law* should therefore be abolished. This Law, condemning the organisation was promulgated during the progress of the Taiping Rebellion and was due to the urgent representations of the then tottering Manchu Government at Peking. The Hongkong Government of to-day is not that of the Wild Forties. I therefore hope that this explanation will help to remove the stigma which has been clinging for so many years to this great and formidable organisation which has only for its object Reform and the freedom and independence of the Chinese from their Manchu yoke. Is it unlawful for the people of a nation to fight for their freedom and independence? We appeal to the noble and chivalrous peoples of the West to act as our judges. Can they blame the Chinese for struggling to free themselves from the tyrannical misgovernment of the barbarous Manchus? Surely we deserve the friendly sympathy and support of the patriots of the West. We have already appealed to the different Governments to recognise us as a legitimate political organisation and pray that our appeal will not be in vain. The day will come when the true history of this great organisation will be made known to the world.—Yours, etc.,

PATRIOTISM.

CHINA & MANILA STEAMSHIP CO., LD.

The report for presentation to the shareholders at the twentieth ordinary general meeting to be held at the office of the General Managers on Wednesday, 29th April, is as follows:—

Annexed we beg to submit to shareholders the usual statement of accounts for the year ending 31st December, 1902, showing a debit balance of \$44,354.81, to be carried forward to new account.

The s.s. *Esmeralda* was sold in June 1902, for £14,500 and the s.s. *Diamond* in March 1903, for £23,750. The remainder of the Company's vessels, s.s. *Pérola*, *Bubi*, and *Zafiro*, were kept in constant employment throughout the year, and are at present in first-class order and condition.

CONSULTING COMMITTEE.

Messrs. H. P. White and G. H. Medhurst resigned from the Committee, and Mr. J. H. Lewis re-joined it. In accordance with the articles of the association, Messrs. N. A. Siebs, D. E. Brown and J. H. Lewis retire, but offer themselves for re-election.

AUDITORS.

The accounts have been audited by Messrs. T. Arnold and W. H. Fotta, who are recommended for re-election.

SHAWAN, TOMES & Co.,

General Managers.

Hongkong, 17th April, 1903.

THE "BRITISH CONSUL" AT HONGKONG.

A French journal referred not long ago to the English Consul at London, and a local paper to the Portuguese Consul at Macao. Now an English weekly makes mention of the British Consul at Hongkong. In an article dealing with the duties of our Consuls, *Answers* relates the following story:—

"A heavy shipment of tinned meats and jams was recently sent from England to Hongkong. To the amazement of the senders, nearly the whole cargo was rejected and sent back. The goods were examined and found perfectly sound and in excellent condition. The Consul was therefore communicated with, and from him it was learned that the rule among Chinese merchants is to open every case, remove the wrappers, and examine the outside of the tin. The slightest blemish to the label involves the final rejection of the tin."

Had *Answers* said the "Scotch Consul" one could have understood.

CANTON.

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.]

OFFICIAL CHANGES.

April 21st, 1903.

You will probably have heard before this letter reaches you that the Viceroy and the Governor are going elsewhere, the latter being promoted to be Viceroy of Fuhkien, an important appointment, and the unfortunate Viceroy appointed to an unimportant post in Kangsu. The latter is undoubtedly a more attractive character than his more fortunate colleague, but he is not such a strong man, and has failed to collect the money demanded by the Central Government. The Governor is a sterner and harder man, who furthermore has high connections. Their successors will be a Kwangsi man, named Sham, to the Viceroyalty, and one named Cheung to be Governor. Both will probably justify their appointments, for they are capable men and have held office in these parts before, while it is hoped that the new Viceroy will restore better order in the neighbouring province of Kwangsi.

THE TAX ON RICE.

The great topic of conversation among the Cantonese at present is the proposed levying of a tax on rice to the amount of two dollars per large bin, in consequence of which the rice shops have closed their doors, as dealers say it is impossible to deal under such circumstances. It is therefore probable that the Magistrates will not persist in the idea, and certainly rice does it seem a well-chosen object for fresh taxation, the necessity for which is traceable to the difficulty which the Central Government finds in raising money for the indemnity, nor does there seem much chance of this difficulty being lessened in the near future.

FIRES.

The city has been very fortunate this year in its immunity from fires, largely due to a more constant rainfall which has prevented things from being dried up; the first fire for some months occurred two nights ago in a valuable quarter of the city, but it was put out in an hour or two and only six shops were destroyed.

MASQUERADING AS A GIRL.

Outside the Viceroy's yamen there is in a cage a youth in feminine attire. He was brought up before the Nam Hoi magistrate for masquerading in this attire. Unfortunately the magistrate looked on it as a most dangerous proceeding, and when the boy has finished a month in the cage, he will have to go to prison for the rest of his days, when he can afford to pay for his release.

PLAGUE.

It is reported that there is a great increase of plague at Shingling and elsewhere on the West River.

AMOY.

[FROM A CORRESPONDENT.]

Amoy, 17th April.

FLOWER SHOW.

Owing to the return of Mr. W. E. Wallace to the port, the Amoy Horticultural Society has revived.

On the 14th instant a most successful Flower and Vegetable Show was held in the grounds of the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank at Kulangan. According to an old resident's opinion, the flowers have never been surpassed. The vegetables on the other hand were not up to the standard of former years.

The most successful exhibitors for flowers were: Messrs. Wallace, Hempel, Orr, Gochuico and McDougall. For vegetables: Messrs. Orr, Wallace, McDougall, Rankin, Gochuico and Donald. The first prize for table decorations, open to ladies only, was won by Mrs. Wallace, and Mrs. C. Johnson secured second prize, while Mrs. Donald and Mrs. Gowland were highly commended.

The judges for flowers were: Messrs. Donald and Nunn and Dr. Mors; for vegetables: Messrs. Gots and Rankin.

Last week Cornwall P. V. Walker, a member of the crew of the U.S.S. *Monadnock*, was accidentally killed while at small-arms target practice at Shanghai.

THE ELECTRIC LIGHT STATION IN KOWLOON.

Residents in Victoria have hitherto held an advantage over their neighbours in Kowloon in the possession of the electric light as an illuminant for their streets, offices, and residences, but the completion of the new lighting station at Hunghom of the China Light and Power Co., Ltd., has equalised matters in this direction and placed Kowloonites on a level footing with people on the other side of the harbour. The station in question was completed only recently and commenced operations on 2nd February last, since when everything in connection therewith has been running with complete smoothness unmarred by a hitch of any kind.

For a new concern feeling its way the business is doing remarkably well, and there is not the slightest doubt that it will be closely identical with the future development of Kowloon. Looking ahead of the times, its promoters have not waited till that development had assumed mature shape: till a want had arisen which competition would strive to supply. They have seen what is coming, and with ready forethought are prepared with the means to meet one of the first demands that will be made when the tide of population flows over British Kowloon.

Many people have visited the new power station since its erection, and all have manifested a keen interest in its working arrangements. The station is situated on the sea-front of the main road leading to Hunghom, and covers an area which leaves room for a considerable extension of the works should increasing business necessitate it. The power house, a large, airy building, holds three generators known as two-phase high-tension dynamos. These were made by the famous Westinghouse Company of America, and each has a capacity of 75 kilowatts; they are driven by patent compound surface-condensing engines, capable of developing over 100 h.p. each, and manufactured by the Ball & Wood Company of New York. Downstairs from the power-house is the boiler-room, where the plant is of an equally up-to-date type. There are three boilers built on the water-tube principle, each of them with a capacity of 100 h.p. Technically known as sectional boilers, they are of the latest American pattern—efficient, safe, easy of access for cleaning purposes and presenting every facility for quick and inexpensive repairs. In the store and godown attached to the station is to be found a large stock of electrical fittings of every description.

The station, which is at present under the management of Mr. J. Johnstone, an electrical engineer of experience who supervised its erection, has been designed for supplying light and power over a radius of two miles, and in the latter direction possesses especial adaptability, its two-phase system doing away with the expensive switch arrangements for the starting of motors necessary in the case of other systems. The main lines have been completed to the Green Island Cement Company's works at Hok Un in one direction, and to the Kowloon Hotel in another. In addition to the Green Island Cement Company, the station has been supplying light to a number of Chinese places of business and residence in Hunghom, and is thus already finding an ever-widening sphere of usefulness.

Messrs. Shewan, Tomes & Co. are the general managers.

FIRES IN HONGKONG.

About 1 a.m. on the 18th inst. fire broke out in a medicine shop at 324, Queen's Road Central, through the accidental dropping of a lighted kerosene lamp, and spread to the two upper floors, besides involving also the top floor of No. 326 adjoining. These floors were used as family houses, but the inmates of those in occupation had timely warning of their danger and escaped. The Fire Brigade attended under Mr. P. P. J. Wodehouse, and succeeded eventually in overcoming the outbreak. The amount of the damage was not stated, but the medicine shop was insured for \$15,000.

Whilst this fire was in progress, another started in premises at 205, Queen's Road West. Sergeant Grant got word of the fact at No. 7 Police Station, with the additional information

from the lukong who brought the news that indications pointed to arson. Sergeant Grant telephoned to Inspector Baker at the Central, and the two proceeded to the scene. The fire had started on the first floor and on the staircase leading thereto, but had been extinguished by the inmates of the ground floor, a tailor's shop, and the lukong who discovered the outbreak. The latter picked up some firewood and pieces of rag soaked with oil, and it was this discovery which led to his summoning Sergeant Grant and the ultimate appearance of the sergeant and Inspector Baker. An examination of the premises showed clearly that a deliberate attempt had been made to burn the place down presumably by those on the first floor, which, like the floor underneath, was occupied by a tailor. Kerosene oil had been spilled all over the staircase, and on the first floor were similar signs of the work of an incendiary. Everything of any worth had been taken away, the business books were packed together ready for removal once the flames had got properly under way, and the woodwork all round was dripping with oil, whilst in the room was a large basket filled with inflammable rubbish which had also been treated with kerosene. The master of the shop and his wife and child and one young fook, a boy, had been detained by the lukong who first saw the flames, and they were placed under arrest to be dealt with later. The police are now investigating the case. The premises were insured for \$2,000 only in the Meiji Company, a Japanese concern.

No less than three fires were reported on the 21st inst. by the police. The first occurred about 9 p.m. on the 20th inst. in a house at No. 57, Wellington Street. It was caused by the upsetting of a lighted lamp, and extinguished by the inmates and police before much damage was done.

The second broke out about 1 a.m. on the 21st inst. in a medicine shop on the first floor of No. 12, Fat Hing Street, in the Central district. It spread to the ground and second floors and to the adjoining house, No. 11, whence the flames were communicated to one floor of No. 13. Nos. 11 and 12 were badly damaged, but No. 13 suffered only slightly. The Fire Brigade attended under Mr. P. P. J. Wodehouse, Assistant Superintendent of Police. The premises were partly insured, but the amount of the damage is unknown.

The third fire had its location in an eating-house at the far end of Queen's Road West. The alarm was given about 8.30 a.m. on the 21st inst., but the flames were extinguished without difficulty, and the damage does not amount to much.

On the 21st inst. an outbreak started in the engine and store rooms of the steamer *Hyades*, lying in Kowloon Dock. The crew and some of the Dock European staff extinguished the flames, which destroyed all the woodwork in the store room. The damage in this case also was trifling.

WRECK OF A BARKENTINE.

The Manila papers report that the Norwegian barkentine *Prince George* was wrecked on the south coast of the Island of Basilan on April 8. Her crew, numbering ten men, were adrift in a small boat for three days, before being picked up by the Coast Guard cutter *Tablas* on her way from Jolo to Zamboanga where they were landed.

The *Prince George* was a vessel of 499 tons built in Sunderland in 1865. Her owners are in Christians, Norway. When the ship was wrecked she was on her way from London to China with a cargo of pitch, having sailed from London on May 22 last, according to the despatch received in the Custom House, which would make her voyage from Europe to the Philippines one of nearly eleven months' duration. If she came direct this would be a very slow record, but of course it is not known how often she put into various ports en route or how long she was delayed.

The ten men comprise the entire crew of the ill-fated ship and they are reported as suffering from beri-beri. They are also without funds and the captain has asked for permission to sell the small boat in which they were picked up to raise a little money for food.

POLO CLUB GYMKHANA.

Fine weather favoured the Polo Club's Gymkhana on the Race Course at Happy Valley on the 18th inst., but despite these encouraging meteorological conditions the attendance, though good, was not so large as might have been expected, all things considered. As a means of filling up the breach caused by the failure to have a Spring Meeting of the Jockey Club, the Gymkhana was a most acceptable if less pretentious fixture, and the Polo Club is to be congratulated on the success that attended its experiment. The band of the Derbyshire Regiment was present, and played popular selections at intervals between the events, of which there were seven. The results were:—

POLO PONY RACE, for bona-fide polo ponies to be passed as such by the Polo Committee; up the straight; catch weights over 11st 7lbs; riders to line up at the starting post with their ponies turned away from the winning post and on the fall of the flag to turn round and gallop in. Entrance fee \$1.

Mr. Johnstone's Vanity, 11st 7lbs	...	1
(Mr. Johnstone)	1	
Mr. Gedge's Punch, 11st 7lbs (Mr. Gedge)	2	
Mr. Kitchener's Norah, 11st 7lbs	...	3
(Mr. Kitchener)	3	
Capt. Thornhill's Banca, 11st 10lbs	...	0
(Capt. Thornhill)	0	
Capt. Light's Go Lightly, 11st 7lbs	...	0
(Capt. Light)	0	
Mr. Cruickshank's Belle Helene, 11st 7lbs	...	0
(Mr. Cruickshank)	0	

Six ran. Norah and Vanity got away together when the starter's flag fell, but the others did not face about so quickly. Punch soon cleared the rack, however, and after passing Norah, which had been beaten in the gallop up the straight by Vanity, made a bold but unsuccessful attempt to pass the leader, which won by a neck only.

ONE MILE RACE, for China ponies; weight for inches as per Hongkong Jockey Club standard; non-winners at the February 1903 Race Meeting allowed 5lbs; winners at that Meeting 5lbs extra. Entrance fee \$3.

Mr. Mackie's Misfit, 10st 7lbs	...	1
(Mr. Clark)	1	
Mr. E. Deacon's Manhattan, 10st 7lbs	...	2
(Mr. Morris)	2	
Mr. Armstrong's Jigoku, 11st 3lbs	...	3
(Mr. Armstrong)	3	
Capt. Whitehead's Lively, 10st 9lbs	...	0
(Mr. Kitchener)	0	
Mr. Pontifex's Commoner, 10st 7lbs	...	0
(Mr. Pontifex)	0	
Mr. F. B. Deacon's Nipper, 10st 1lb	...	0
(Mr. F. B. Deacon)	0	
Mr. Inglis's Velvet, 11st 4lbs	...	0
(Mr. Inglis)	0	
Mr. Armstrong's Starling, 11st 3lbs	...	0
(Mr. Anley)	0	
Mrs. Dickson's Digby Grand, 11st 3lbs	...	0
(Mr. Johnstone)	0	

* 2lbs over. † 8lbs over. ‡ Each 7lbs over. Nine ran. The start was not a very good one, some of the ponies being left at the post. Digby Grand, Commoner, and Jigoku, on the rails, were on level terms passing the stand, the others straggling behind and Nipper tailing away in the rear, "waiting for the field to come round again," as one spectator put it. Round past the Golf Club's pavilion no change had taken place, but nearing the back stretch Lively, Manhattan, and Misfit began to show up. Jigoku pointed the way up to the black rock, but down the hill to the village was challenged by Manhattan. Then Misfit, the only pony in the field which had had any training during the week, and even then only two or three gallops, came away on the outside and half-way up the straight passed Manhattan and Jigoku, winning by a length and a half. Time, 2 min. 17½ secs.

As showing the chance that Misfit was deemed to have, only two people backed it in the pari-mutuel—one of them a police sergeant and the other a Sanitary Board inspector. They drew \$198 each for the \$5 which they had stake!

SIX FURLONGS FLAT RACE; Open Waters; Handicap; Entrance fee \$3.

Mr. Morgan Phillips's Legacy, 11st 6lbs	...	1
(Mr. Johnstone)	1	
Mr. Gedge's Punch, 10st 6lbs (Mr. Gedge)	2	
Mr. Moxon's School Girl, 10st 12lbs	...	3
(Mr. Cruickshank)	3	

* 2lbs over. † 4lbs over. Three ran. The start was a bad one. School Girl took the lead, but in the back stretch Legacy, the favourite, had no difficulty in displacing her, and won running away. The other two had a good gallop for second place, which Punch secured on the post. Time, 1 min. 24 secs.

LADIES' NOMINATION; Rosette race; each nominator has an envelope handed to her containing a coloured ribbon; competitor; are to start dismounted and on the fall of the flag are to mount, gallop to a line of barrels one or more of which will contain envelopes, dismount, take out one, remount, gallop on round a post, leaving it on the left hand, and back to the winning post; the nominator holding a ribbon of the same colour as that contained in the envelope held by the first competitor to pass the post to take the prize. Post entries.

Mr. Cruickshank	...	1
Mr. Johnstone	...	2
Capt. Keller	...	3

STEEPLECHASE; horses not exceeding 14 hds. 3 in. to carry not less than 11 st. 5 lbs., exceeding 14 hds. 3 in. 2 lbs. per quarter inch extra; previous winners of a jump race to carry 8 lbs. extra for each race won; penalties accumulative; Arabs allowed 7 lbs.; Indian country brds allowed 12 lbs. Entrance fee \$3.

Mr. Johnstone's Run way Girl	...	1
(Mr. Johnstone)	1	
Mr. Cruickshank's Belle Helene	...	2
(Mr. Pontifex)	2	
Mr. Brutton's Butcher Boy	...	0
(Mr. Brutton)	0	
Mr. Kitchener's Norah	...	0
(Mr. Kitchener)	0	

Four ran. Only two finished. Runaway Girl, who "pecked" badly once, held the advantage from start to finish, and won easily.

CHINA PONY STEEPLECHASE; weight for inches as per scale; entrance fee \$3. Post entries.

Mr. Johnstone's Ben Nevis	...	1
(Mr. Johnstone)	1	
Mrs. Dickson's Digby Grand	...	2
(Mr. E. R. Morris)	2	
Mr. Pontifex's Commoner	...	3
(Mr. Pontifex)	3	
Mr. Inglis's Velvet	...	0
(Mr. Brutton)	0	
Mr. Kitchener's Iopcar	...	0
(Mr. Kitchener)	0	
Mr. E. Deacon's Manhattan	...	0
(Mr. H. E. Morris)	0	

Mr. Clarke's The Buck	...	0
(Capt. Light)	0	
Capt. Whitehead's Lively	...	0
(Mr. Clark)	0	

Light ran. Ben Nevis and Digby Grand were the only two ponies to complete the race without mishap. One pony was left at the first jump, which it absolutely refused to take. The water jump was the most difficult one to negotiate. Pony after pony came to a dead halt when it was reached, and neither whip nor spur would induce them to go over. One jockey made the journey alone, and landed plump in the water; his pony trotted off across the course, but he made no attempt to recapture it—he had had quite enough, thanks! Ben Nevis and Digby Grand went over like birds, and Commoner came in third somehow.

COSTUME RACE; ladies' nomination; down the straight round a post and in, the post to be turned leaving it on the left hand; prize for the best costume; prize for first past post; competitors to line up in front of the judge's box previous to the race for the purpose of judging the costumes. Post entries.

The six competitors in this event appeared in costumes as excellent as they were varied. Mr. F. Deacon was attired as a ballet girl, and the faithfulness of his copy may be judged from the remark of a short-sighted old gentleman with glasses who had not read his programme and who came upon the vision quite suddenly—"Jove, what a pretty girl! What's she doing here in that rig, though?" Mr. Deacon won the prize for the best costume, and Mr. Johnstone the prize for the race.

The French Consul at Shanghai concludes a report on recent share speculations at the northern port by stating that the Shanghai financial market, for which the year 1902 has been the most disastrous in men's memory, is now entirely in the hands of certain brokers whose gambling practices keep away from the bourse all sensible operators.

ARMY ESTIMATES FOR THE FAR EAST.

We have already given a general summary of the Army Estimates for 1903-4. The following are the details for Hongkong and Weihaiwei so far as they appear on the face of the Estimates (the figures within parentheses are the votes for last year):—

Establishment.—Artillery, Garrison: Three companies, 736 of all ranks. Engineers: One company, 13 officers, 185 men. Infantry: One battalion, 1,012 of all ranks. Army Service Corps: 5 officers, 6 men. Royal Army Medical Corps: 11 officers, 41 men. Colonial and Native Indian Corps: 44 companies of Infantry; four of Local Artillery; one of Local Engineers; 5,689 of all ranks. Army Ordnance Department, 7; Army Ordnance Corps, 62; Army Pay Corps, 8. Total of all ranks, 7,768.

General Staff.—Hongkong: Major-General, £3 a day; deputy assistant adjutant-general, £1 1s; deputy assistant quartermaster-general, £1 1s; aide-de-camp, 15s; total pay, £2,741. Temporary and acting staff, £15; servant allowance, £120; table money, £146; garrison and staff sergeant, £108; civilian and pensioner clerk, £18. Total of General Staff, £2,648. Weihaiwei: Staff Captain, 15s a day, £274. Temporary and acting staff, £10; servant allowance, £13. Total of General Staff, £297.

Appropriations in Aid.—£76,403 (£78,000). Approximate Annual Cost of Clothing, per Man.—Hongkong and Singapore: Battalion Royal Artillery: Sergeant, £4 19s. 10d.; rank and file, £3 18s. 4d.; recruits, £7 10s. 2d.

China Expeditionary Force.—Pay, £90,000 (£50,000). Medical Services, £5,000 (no amount given for last year). Transport and remounts, £70,000 (no amount given for last year). Supplies, &c., £50,000 (£80,000). Clothing, £10,000 (no amount given for last year). Supply and repair of warlike and other stores, £20,000 (no amount given for last year).

Chinese Regiment.—European: Fifteen officers, £5,646; sergeant-major, quartermaster-sergeant, and orderly-room sergeant, and colour-sergeants, seven, £1,152. Chinese: Sergeants, nine, £112; buglers, eight, £72; corporals, privates, interpreters, 505, £4,141. And for lance ranks, &c., and for a clerk, £84. Total, £5,554. Deduct for stoppages, day forfeited, &c., £200; leaving £5,354. Total, £11,000.

Hongkong and Singapore Royal Artillery.—Four companies at Hongkong, consisting of eight officers and 455 men; and two companies at Singapore, consisting of four officers and 241 men. The pay of the officers is £552, with £85 for additional pay; and that of the men, £5,887, with £3,208 for additional pay, making £9,710. Deductions, £410; leaving £9,300.

Royal Engineers.—A company of 50 at Singapore, one of 70 at Hongkong, and one of 50 at Ceylon, £1,648. Deductions, £48; leaving £1,600.

Army Service corps.—Pay, &c., of the Subordinate Establishment: Subordinates continuously employed, £1,305; temporary labour and working pay of military working parties, £145; native labourers, £1,050; transport establishment by land, £555; ditto by water, £915. Total, £3,870.

Chaplain's Department.—Hongkong and Weihaiwei: Chaplain, £411; servant allowance, £21; chapel clerks, orderlies, &c., £30; officiating clergy and allowance for contingencies, £330; payment for buildings for divine service, £42. Total, £834.

Army Pay Department.—Hongkong: Chief Paymaster, £640; Staff Paymaster, £457; Paymaster, £183; servant allowance, £43; civilian and pensioner subordinate, £20; postage and contingencies, £28. Total, £1,371. Weihaiwei: Extra duty pay to officers acting as paymasters, £91; postage and contingencies, £10. Total, £101.

Medical Establishment.—Hongkong and Weihaiwei: Colonel, £730; nine lieutenant-colonels and officers of lower ranks, £3,370; quartermaster, £200; servant and mess allowance, £230. Total pay of Medical Officers, £4,530. Postage and contingencies, £10; nursing service, £280; allowance for board, washing, and clothing, £510; nurses in women's hospital, £164; regimental hospital orderlies and miscellaneous labour, £650; corps pay and extra duty pay, £450.

Army Ordnance Department.—Hongkong; Clerks, writers, and other subordinates continuously employed, 180, £1,654; temporary labour, £2,101. Total, £3,755 (£7,540).

Works, Buildings, and Repairs.—Commandant's house at Peking: Total estimate for work, £3,500; amount to be voted, £3,800.

Transport, Provisions, &c.—Hongkong and China: Land and inland water transport, £3,900; provisions and separation allowance, £51,100; forage, paillasse, stable and straw allowance, £3,600; fuel and light, £7,200; field allowance, £200; rents, £2,900; water, £1,100; lodging allowance, £6,000; Colonial allowances, £3,100; advertisements, £30; barrack services, £1,000. Total, £75,630. Appropriations in aid, £400.

COMMERCIAL.

SILK

Canton, 24th April.—Exports.—Filature.—Prices ruled fairly steady during the earlier part of the fortnight with very little animation on the part of European buyers. Latterly, however, transactions have been facilitated by a decidedly weaker tone amongst holders, as evidenced by the decline of \$2 1/2 per picul shown by subjoined quotations, and a fair amount of the remaining stock has been taken at the lower level. Prices reported show a good deal of irregularity, especially on medium sizes. We quote as last paid: Sun Yue Lun, Wing Wo Lun, Yee Wo Loong 9/11 at \$1,060; Wong Yuk Kee, Nam Chan 10/12 at \$1,000; Kwong Shun Cheong 11/13, 13/15 at \$1,035; Shun Kee 11/13 at \$1,010; Mee Kee 13/15 at \$995; Kai Sun Kheong 13/15 at \$985. There is no enquiry for Coarse Sizes beyond the price of \$880 offered for Wai King Wo 18/22. Short-reels.—The dullness of American demand continues unchanged. A few lots only have been taken from stock on the basis of \$1,005 for Hau King Sing, \$1,000 for Yu King, \$985 for Chung Sun Hang, Chee Hing Lun 14/16. Later, Kwong Shun Cheong, Kwong Shun Ching have been done at \$190, \$90. Waste Silk.—Has ruled irregularly during the fortnight. Prices of Steam have been easier with sales at \$139/140 for Ext. Sel. opened, but close firm with few sellers at the latter rate. There will not be much further supply to come forward.

CAMPHOR.

Hongkong, 24th April.—No arrivals.

SUGAR.

Hongkong, 24th April.—The position of the market is nearly the same as when last reported. Shekloong, No. 1, White, \$8.35 to \$8.40 per cwt. Do, 2, White, 7.40 to 7.45 " Shekloong, No. 1, Brown, 6.10 to 6.15 " Do, 2, Brown, 6.00 to 6.05 " Swatow, No. 1, White, 8.20 to 8.25 " Do, No. 1, White, 7.20 to 7.25 " Do, 1, Brown, 5.85 to 5.90 " Do, 2, Brown, 5.70 to 5.75 " Foochow Sugar Candy, 12.20 to 12.25 " Shekloong, 10.80 to 10.85 "

RICE.

Hongkong, 24th April.—Some demands having come forward the prices are slightly advancing. Saigon, Ordinary, \$3.55 to 3.60 " Bound, Good quality, 5.25 to 5.30 " Long, 5.40 to 5.45 " Siam, Field mill cleaned, No. 2, 4.00 to 4.05 " Garden, No. 1, 4.20 to 4.25 " White, 5.80 to 5.85 " Fine Cargo, 5.75 to 5.80 "

COTTON.

Hongkong, 24th April.—Moderate business in superior quality at a decline of 1/4. Market closes weak. Stock, about 4,000 bales. Bombay, 23.00 to 24.00 picul Bengal (New), Bangoo, 24.00 to 26.00 " and Dacca, 24.00 to 26.00 " Shanghai and Japanese, 28.00 to 28.50 " Tungchow and Ningpo, 28.00 to 28.50 " Sale, 300 bales.

YARN.

Mr. P. Eduljee says in his Report, dated Hongkong 24th April:—The "Lomb-worship" Festival influences continue to affect business. There has been less inquiry during the past fortnight, the bulk of the small settlements reported below being divided pretty fairly amongst the different

counts. Tens has been practically neglected, but this may be accounted for, by the prevalence of famine in Kwangai, the principal outlet for this count. Prices show a further depreciation of 50 cents to \$1 1/2 per bale, and are weak at the close; importers have been anxious sellers and sales are being vigorously pressed. The market closes quiet and unsteady.

Local Manufacture.—There is no change in local mill quotations which are still maintained at \$103 1/2 for No. 10s. and \$106 for No. 12s., business reported being about 200 bales forward delivery.

Japanese Yarn. Market firm, but very little doing.

Raw Cotton.—The market has been featureless and business continues to drag. In Indian descriptions prices are much easier, but at the same time while holders are meeting any demand which exists, there is no pressure to sell. No business whatever has been reported in either Bengal or Chinese descriptions. Estimated unsold stock about 4,250 bales Indian and 500 bales (small) Chinese. Quotations are: Bengal \$21 to \$25, China \$26 to \$28.

Exchange is looking up in sympathy with the rise in silver quotations and closes firm to-day at Rs. 123 1/2 for T/T and Rs. 123 1/2 for Post, on Shanghai 72 and on Yokohama 80 1/2.

The undernoted business in imported and local spinnings is reported from Shanghai during the three weeks ended the 19th instant, viz:—

Indian.—Total sales 2,817 bales, comprising 1,035 bales No. 10s., 375 bales No. 12s., 200 bales 16s. and 1,247 bales No. 20s., prices continuing with little alteration as those last given and market closing steady. Estimated unsold stock about 35,000 bales.

Japanese.—There has been only a limited business passing in these threads, sales amounting to 500 bales on the basis of last mail values, say Tls. 94 to Tls. 98 1/2 for No. 16s. and Tls. 97 to \$105 for No. 20s., and market closing weak.

Local.—Although there is some enquiry, the only business reported is a sale of 200 bales, Soeychee No. 10s. at Tls. 85 packed. Market closing dull.

MISCELLANEOUS IMPORTS.

Hongkong 23rd April.—Amongst the sales reported during the week are the following:—

	per bale
Bombay—Nos. 10 to 20, ...	\$ 94.00 to \$134.00
English—Nos. 16 to 24, ...	114.00 to 120.00
" 22 to 24, ...	120.00 to 128.00
" 28 to 32, ...	136.00 to 142.00
" 38 to 42, ...	155.00 to 170.00
	per piece.
COTTON PIECE GOODS—	
Grey Shirtings—6 lbs.	2.30 to 2.40
7 lbs.	2.50 to 2.80
8.4 lbs.	3.30 to 4.10
9 to 10 lbs.	4.00 to 5.60
White Shirtings—54 to 56 rd.	2.80 to 3.00
58 to 60 "	3.45 to 3.75
64 to 66 "	4.00 to 5.50
Fine 5.75 to 8.20	
Book-folds 4.75 to 7.50	
Victoria Lawns—12 yards	0.80 to 1.75
T-Cloths—6lbs. (32 in.), Ord'y.	2.00 to 2.30
7lbs. (32 ") "	2.40 to 2.95
6lbs. (32 ") Mexs.	2.50 to 2.75
7lbs. (32 ") "	3.00 to 3.50
8 to 8.4 oz., (36 in.)	3.30 to 4.00
Drills, English—40 yds., 13 1/2 " to 14 lbs.	4.75 to 7.30

FANCY COTTONS—

Turkey Red Shirtings—1 1/2 to 8 lbs. } 1.50 to 5.50

Brocades—Dyed to —

DAMASKS— per yard

Chintzes—Assorted to —

Velvets—Black, 22 in. 0.29 to 0.60

Velveteens—18 in. 0.20 to 0.29

Handkerchiefs—Imitation Silk 0.37 to 5.00

WOOLLENS— per yard

Spanish Stripes—Sundry chops 0.75 to 2.25

Habit, Med., and Broad Cloths 1.25 to 3.00

Long Ells—Scarlet, 7-10 lbs. 7.45 to 9.50

Assorted 7.60 to 9.65

Camlets—Assorted 13.50 to 38.00

Lastings—30 yd., 31 inches } 14.00 to 21.00

Assorted } 14.00 to 21.00

Orleans—Plain 10.00 to —

Blankets—8 to 12 lbs. 0.65 to 0.90

Fine quality, 1.60 to 2.50

METALS— per picul

Iron—Nail Rod 4.80 to —

Square Flat Round Bar (Eng. 4.80 to —

Swedish Bar 4.80 to —

Small Round Rod 5.20 to —

Hoop 1/2 to 1 1/2 in.	6.20 to —
Wire, 16/25,	9.50 to —
Wire Rope Old	3.50 to —
Lead, L.B. & Co. and Hole Chop	9.80 to —
Australian	9.80 to —
Yellow M'tal—Muntz 14/20 oz.	44.00 to —
Vivian's 14/20 oz.	44.00 to —
Elliot's 14/20 oz.	44.00 to —
Composition Nails,	31.00 to —
Japan Copper, Slabs,	39.00 to —
Tin,	32.00 to —

Tin-Plates box, per 8.30 to —

Steel 1/2 to 1/2 per cwt. case 6.50 to —

SUNDRIES— per picul

Quicksilver 18.00 to —

Window Glass per box. 5.75 to —

SHARE REPORT.

HONGKONG, April 24th, 1903.—A fair general business has been done during the past week, and rates, with the exception of Lands which show a decline, have been generally well maintained, and close steady.

BANKS.—Hongkong and Shanghai have been booked at \$690 (a small lot), \$685 and \$680 (a forced sale), and close with probable buyers at the latter rate. London is unchanged at £63. Nationals are still in request at \$25.

MARINE INSURANCE.—Unions are steady at \$535. China Traders have sold and a few more shares are wanted at \$60. North Chinas have buyers at Tls. 200. Yangtszes are wanted at \$128 ex the dividend of \$12 per share for 1901 paid on the 22nd instant. Cantons are procurable to a small extent at \$167 1/2.

FIRE INSURANCES.—Hongkong are somewhat easier at \$307 1/2 after sales at \$309 and \$310. Chinas have been booked at \$82, \$82 1/2 and \$83 and close with probable buyers at \$83.

SHIPPING.—Hongkong, Canton and Macao have sold at \$38 1/2, and more shares are procurable at this figure. Indo-Chinas have firmed up, and close with buyers at \$107 1/2 after sales at \$106, \$106 1/2 and \$107 cash, \$108 1/2 and \$109 May, and \$109 June, at which rates more shares are enquired for. China and Vanillas have sold at \$25 and are in further demand. Star Ferries (old) continue in request at \$27, and (new) at the advanced rate of \$15 1/2. Shell Transports are still to be had at £1. 6s. with probable buyers at £1. 5s.

REFINERIES.—China Sugars have sold and are wanted at \$110. Luzons are unchanged at \$12 1/2 sellers.

MINING.—Punjoms continue weak with sellers at \$3. Raubs have advanced to \$9 1/2 buyers, and Jelebur to \$1 1/2 (probably \$1 1/2) buyers. Charbonnages are unchanged at \$600 sellers.

DOCKS, WHARVES & GODOWNS.—Hongkong and Whampoa Docks have been placed at \$217 and \$216, and close with a few sellers at \$216. Hongkong and Kowloon Wharves have been booked at the reduced rate of \$93. New Amoy Docks are slightly firmer with buyers at \$39. Farnhams have sellers locally and in the north at Tls. 190.

LANDS, HOTELS & BUILDINGS.—Hongkong Lands have declined to \$171 sellers after sales at \$172 and \$170. Kowloon Lands are reported booked at \$42, closing with sellers at \$42 1/2. West Points have been taken off the market at \$54 and \$53 1/2, and close with probable sellers at \$54. Hongkong Hotels have been booked at \$150 and \$151, and close in further request at \$150. Oriente Hotels can be placed at \$27 1/2. Humphreys Estates are wanted at \$12 1/2.

COTTON MILLS.—Hongkong have advanced to \$16 1/2 sales, and close in further request at \$16 1/2 ex the interim dividend of 40 cents per share on account of 1902 to 1903 payable on application at the Company's offices. The northern stocks are unchanged at last quotations.

MISCELLANEOUS.—Manila Investments continue in request at \$15. Green Island Cements have sold and there are further sellers at \$23. China Borneos have advanced to \$11 1/2 sales and buyers. Electrics have sellers at \$14 (old) and \$7 1/2 (new). Ropes have advanced to \$11 1/2 buyers. Fenwicks have sold at \$50 and a few

more shares are procurable at this rate. Ices after sales at \$237½ and \$39 close with probable buyers at \$240. S. S. Water Boats have sold at the improved rate of \$12½ and more shares can be placed. China Providents continue on offer at \$9½. Bells Asbestos have been booked and are in further request at \$3. Watkins have buyers at \$8.

MEMOS.—China and Manila Steamship Co., Ltd., ordinary yearly meeting on the 29th inst. Punjom Mining Co., Ltd., notify that a final call of 50 cents per share on the ordinary shares of the Company is payable at the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation on the 9th May.

Closing quotations are as follows:—

COMPANY.	PAID UP.	QUOTATIONS.
Banks—		
Hongkong & Shanghai	\$125	{ \$680, sales L'don, £63.
Natl. Bank of China		
A. Shares	28	\$25, buyers
B. Shares	28	\$25, buyers
Four. Shares	21	\$10, sellers
Bell's Asbestos E. A.	21	\$3, buyers
Campbell, Moore & Co.	\$10	\$42½
China-Borneo Co., Ltd.	\$12	\$11½, buyers
China Light & Power Co., Ltd.	\$20	\$2, sales
China Prov. L. & M.	\$10	\$9.75, sellers
China Sugar	\$100	\$110, buyers
Cigar Companies—		
Alhambra Limited	\$500	\$350, sellers
Philippine Tobacco	\$50	\$18.
Invest. Co., Ltd.		
Cotton Mills—		
Ewo	Tls. 100	Tls. 40, buyers
International	Tls. 75	Tls. 40.
Laou Kung Mow	Tls. 100	Tls. 45.
Soychee	Tls. 500	Tls. 160.
Hongkong	\$100	\$16½, buyers
Dairy Farm	\$6	\$11, buyers
Fenwick & Co., Geo.	\$25	\$50, sales & sellers
Green Island Cement	\$10	\$23, sellers
H. & C. Bakery	\$50	\$40, sellers
Hongkong & C. Gas	\$210	\$140, buyers
Hongkong Electric	\$10	\$14, sellers
H. H. L. Tramways	\$100	\$7½, sellers
Hk. Steam Water	\$100	\$320, sales
boat Co., Ltd.	\$10	\$12½, buyers
Hongkong Hotel	\$50	\$150, buyers
Hongkong Ice	\$25	\$24.
H. & K. Wharf & G.	\$50	\$98, sales
Hongkong Rope	\$50	\$115, buyers
H. & W. Dock	\$50	\$216, sellers
Insurance—		
Canton	\$50	\$167½, sellers
China Fire	\$20	\$83.
China Traders	\$25	\$60, buyers
Hongkong Fire	\$50	\$307½.
North China	\$25	Tls. 200, buyers
Strait	\$20	\$1, nominal
Union	\$100	\$535.
Yangtze	\$60	\$128, ex div. buys.
Land and Building—		
Hongkong Land Inv.	\$100	\$171, sellers
Humphreys Estate	\$10	\$12½, buyers
Kowloon Land & B.	\$30	\$42½, sellers
West Point Building	\$50	\$54, sellers
Luzon Sugar	\$100	\$12½, sellers
Manila Invest. Co., Ltd.	\$50	\$15, buyers
Mining—		
Charbonnages	Fcs. 250	\$600, sellers
Jebeu	\$5	\$1½, buyers
Punjom	\$10½	\$3, sellers
Do. Preference	\$1	35 cents.
Raubs	\$18	\$9½, buyers
New Amoy Dock	\$3½	\$39, buyers
Oriente Hotel, Manila	\$50	\$27½.
Powell, Ltd.	\$10	\$10, buyers
Robinson Co. Piano, Ltd.	\$50	\$50, buyers
Steamship Coys.—		
China and Manila	\$50	{ \$25, buyers nominal
Douglas Steamship	\$50	\$43, sellers
Il, Canton and M.	\$15	\$36½, sellers
Indo-China S. N.	\$10	\$107½, buyers
Shell Transport and Trading Co.	\$1	{ 21.6s. Cd. sellers \$10
Star Ferry	\$5	{ \$27, buyers \$15½, buyers
Tebrau Planting Co.	\$5	nominal.
United Asbestos	\$4	\$9, buyers
Do.	\$10	\$155.
Universal Trading Co., Ltd.	\$5	\$23, buyers
Watkins Ltd.	\$10	\$8, sellers
Watson & Co., A. S.	\$10	\$15, buyers

VERNON & SMYTH, Brokers.

SHANGHAI, 16th April (from Messrs. J. P. Bisset & Co.'s Report). During the week under review we have only a limited business to chronicle. There was no business done during the Easter holidays, and the market opened on Tuesday generally weak, with a disposition to sell, and at time of writing the market is very quiet. **MARINE INSURANCE.**—Yangtzes have been placed at \$131 ex div. of \$12. **SHIPPING.**—Tug Boats have changed hands at Tls. 340. Cargo Boats could be obtained at Tls. 172½. **DOCKS AND WHARVES.**—Farnham Boyds.—On the 9th shares changed hands for April delivery at Tls. 190, and 195 for June. On the 15th at 190 cash and 187½ for April. At the close the market is stronger with a demand for shares at 190. Shanghai and Hongkew Wharves: sales at Tls. 300 with sellers at this rate. **MINING.**—Chinese Engineering & Mining Co., Ltd.—Sales are reported of bearer at Tls. 8. **LANDS.**—Shanghai Lands have changed hands at Tls. 113, the market closes with sellers at this rate. **INDUSTRIAL.**—The only business in Cotton shares has been in Internationals at Tls. 40. All Cotton stocks are stronger and have buyers at quotations. Shanghai Ices have been placed at Tls. 22; Paper and Pulp at Tls. 119. Maata-chappi, &c., in Langkat.—We have only a limited business to report during the past week. The market opened on the 9th with cash sales at Tls. 352½ and 350, and 350 for April Settlement. On the 14th cash shares were again placed at 352½ and 351½, and 355 for April Settlement. On the 15th cash sales at Tls. 351½, 352½ April, 365 and 362½ June. The market closes quiet. Shanghai Sumatras have been placed at Tls. 57½ and 60. Shanghai Waterworks are wanted at Tls. 410. **STORES AND HOTELS.**—Sales of Hall and Holtz at \$37, and Astor House Hotels at \$30. **MISCELLANEOUS.**—The only business under this heading is in Telephones at Tls. 63. **LOANS.**—No business is reported; there is an inclination to sell at quotations.

CLOSING QUOTATIONS.

FRIDAY, 24th April.

EXCHANGE.

ON LONDON.	
Telegraphic Transfer	1/7½
Bank Bills, on demand	1/7½
Bank Bills, at 30 days' sight	1/7½
Bank Bills, at 4 months' sight	1/8
Credits, at 4 months' sight	1/8½
Documentary Bills, 4 months' sight	1/8½
ON PARIS.	
Bank Bills, on demand	207½
Credits 4 months' sight	211½
ON GERMANY.	
On demand	169
ON NEW YORK.	
Bank Bills, on demand	40½
Credits, 60 days' sight	41
ON BOMBAY. —Telegraphic Transfer	123½
Bank, on demand	123½
ON CALCUTTA. —Telegraphic Transfer	123½
Bank, on demand	123½
ON SHANGHAI. —Bank, at sight	72
Private, 30 days' sight	72½
ON YOKOHAMA. —On demand	80½
ON MANILA. —On demand	4 p.c. pm.
ON SINGAPORE. —On demand	nominal
ON BATAVIA. —On demand	49½
ON HAIPHONG. —On demand	3 p.c. pm.
ON SAIGON. —On demand	2½ p.c. pm.
ON BANGKOK. —On demand	62
SOVEREIGNS, Bank's Buying Rate	\$11.95
GOLD LEAF, 100 fine, per tael	63.20
BAR SILVER, per oz.	27½

TONNAGE.

HONGKONG, 24th April.—Freights coastwise are somewhat weaker. From Saigon to Hongkong, 15 cents per picul; to Philippines, 32 cents per picul. Newchwang to Canton, 25 cents per picul last and no further demand at the moment. From Wuhu to Canton, 20 candareens per picul last and offering. Hongkong to Hongkong, \$1.80 per ton. Hongkong to Port Arthur, 3 steamers have been fixed to carry Cardiff coal, at \$3 per ton. Coal freights are weak. From Moji to Hongkong, \$3 per ton last; to Singapore, \$2.30 offering. The following are the settlements:—
Duke of Fife—British steamer, 2,416 tons, Moji or Karatsu to Manila, \$3.10 per ton.
Glenshiel—British steamer, 2,204 tons, Moji or Karatsu to Foochow, \$3.10 per ton.
Marie Jepsen—German steamer, 1,771 tons, Moji to Hongkong, \$2 per ton.
Rossija—Russian steamer, 1,315 tons, Hongkong to Hongkong, \$2 per ton.
Frigga—Norwegian steamer, 646 tons, Hongkong to Port Arthur, \$3 per ton (Cardiff coal).

Sentis—Norwegian steamer, 807 tons, Hongkong to Port Arthur, \$3 per ton (Cardiff coal).
Madeleine Rickmers—German steamer, 1,021 tons, Hongkong to Port Arthur, \$3 per ton.
Airtis—British steamer, 1,482 tons, Wuhu and/or Chinkiang to Canton, \$12,500 in full.
Themis—Norwegian steamer, 1,208 tons, Wuhu and/or Chinkiang to Canton, 22 candareens per picul.
Perla—British steamer, 1,287 tons, Wuhu and/or Chinkiang to Canton, 20 candareens per picul.
Bjorn—Norwegian steamer, 722 tons, Saigon to one port Philippines, 36 cents per picul.
Taishan—British steamer, 1,544 tons, Saigon to one port Philippines, 35 cents per picul.
Bjorn—Norwegian steamer, 722 tons, Saigon to one port Philippines, 35 cents per picul.
Lena—Norwegian steamer, 979 tons, Saigon to one port Philippines, 32 cents per picul.
Haiching—British steamer, 1,267 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 18 cents per picul.
Sishan—British steamer, 845 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 18 cents per picul.
Dagmar—Norwegian steamer, 383 tons, hence to Tournon and Canton, \$140 per day.
Bygde—Norwegian steamer, 771 tons, monthly, 3½ months, at \$6,250 per month.
Wineland—Danish steamer, 1,668 tons, monthly, 4 months, at \$8,000 per month.

VESSELS ON THE BERTH.

FOR ANTWERP.—*Deucalion, Hitachi Maru, Jason, Tantalus, Socotra.*
FOR LONDON.—*Jason, Ballarat, Deucalion, Patroclus, Hitachi Maru, Socotra, Calchas.*
FOR LIVERPOOL.—*Agamemnon, Hyson.*
FOR MARSEILLES.—*Tonkin, Deucalion, Jason, Tantalus, Hitachi Maru.*
FOR BREMEN.—*Kiautschow.*
FOR HAVRE AND HAMBURG.—*Serbia, Segovia, Strassburg, Saxonia, Suevia.*
FOR GENOA.—*Agamemnon, Hyson.*
FOR TRIESTE.—*Marie Valeria.*
FOR NEW YORK.—*Afridi, Pembroke, Nubia.*
FOR MANZANILLO, MEXICO AND SAN FRANCISCO.—*Ohingwo.*
FOR VICTORIA, B.C.—*Hyades, Ajas, Rhojun Maru.*
FOR VANCOUVER.—*Empress of Japan, Tartar.*
FOR PORTLAND (OR.).—*Indragara.*
FOR AUSTRALIAN PORTS.—*Tinan, Australian.*
FOR CHEMULPO, DALNY, AND PORT ARTHUR.—*Sullberg.*
FOR SINGAPORE, PENANG AND CALCUTTA.—*Gregory Apar.*

SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES SINCE LAST MAIL.
ARRIVALS.

April—
15, Mausang, British str., from Sandakan.
16, Prosper, Norwegian str., from Wuhu.
17, Glenfarg, British str., from Moji.
17, Gregory Apar, British str., from Calcutta.
17, Inaba Maru, Jap. str., from Shanghai.
17, Keemun, British str., from Liverpool.
17, Kowloon, German str., from Canton.
17, Rosetta Maru, Japanese str., from Manila.
18, Anping Maru, Jap. str., from Coast Ports.
18, Anping, Chinese str., from Shanghai.
18, An Pho, British str., from Saigon.
18, Apenrade, German str., from Haiphong.
18, Cecidea, French gunboat, from Nagasaki.
18, Bikosan Maru, Jap. str., from K'otsu.
18, Kwangping, British str., from C'wangtan.
18, Nanchang, British str., from Tientsin.
18, Queen Eleanor, British str., from Moji.
18, Sungkiang, British str., from Manila.
18, Taiyuan, British str., from Japan.
19, Caledonien, French str., from Marseilles.
19, Cheangchow, British str., from Singapore.
19, Feiching, Chinese str., from Canton.
19, Hermes, Norwegian str., from Canton.
19, Haitan, British str., for Swatow.
19, Kwangle, Chinese str., from Shanghai.
19, Melpomene, Austrian str., from Trieste.
19, Montcalm, French cruiser, from Saigon.
19, Nanyang, German str., from Manila.
19, Pekin, British str., from Moji.
19, Richmond Castle, Brit. str., from Shanghai.
19, Silvia, German str., from Wilhelmshaven.
19, Telemachus, British str., from Saigon.
19, Tonkin, French str., from Japan.
19, Woosung, British str., from Shanghai.
20, Bjorn, Norwegian str., from Tournon.
20, Chowtai, German str., from Bangkok.
20, Hiroshima Maru, Jap. str., from Y'hama.
20, Hongmoh, British str., from Straits.

20. Huron, British str., from Moji.
 20. Kailong, British str., from Hilo.
 21. Kanga Maru, Jap. str., from Australia.
 21. Michael Jensen, Ger. str., from Haiphong.
 21. Pingsoy, British str., from Japan.
 21. Rabi, British str., from Manila.
 21. Yuensang, British str., from Manila.
 21. Clara Jensen, Ger. str., from Chinkiang.
 21. Dagmar, Norwegian str., from Quinhon.
 21. Formosa, British str., from Swatow.
 21. Itola, British str., from Moji.
 21. Kalgan, British str., from Canton.
 21. Kwangtak, Chinese str., from Canton.
 21. Labor, Norwegian str., from Chinkiang.
 21. Monterey, U.S. monitor, from Canton.
 21. Yawata Maru, Jap. str., from Nagasaki.
 22. Anamba, Danish str., from Chinkiang.
 22. Benlawers, British str., from Kutchinotsu.
 22. Chwanshan, British str., from Saigon.
 22. Daijin Maru, Japanese str., from Tamsui.
 22. Groszox, Russian tor.-bt., from Saigon.
 22. Haitan, French str., from Hoihow.
 22. J. Diederichsen, Ger. str., from Hoihow.
 22. Lysedoon, German str., from Canton.
 22. Nor. Norwegian str., from Hamburg.
 22. Nubla, German str., from New York.
 22. Wlasing, Russian tor.-bt., from Saigon.
 22. Sado Maru, Japanese str., from Singapore.
 22. Siam, British str., from Shanghai.
 22. Pelayo, British str., from Langkat.
 23. Ballarat, British str., from Shanghai.
 23. Elze, German str., from Wuhu.
 23. Guerveur, French ship, from New York.
 23. Ocean, British battleship, from Mirs Bay.
 23. Patroclus, British str., from Liverpool.
 23. Perla, British str., from Manila.
 23. Sandakan, German str., from Hoihow.

April DEPARTURES.

17. China, Austrian str., for Yokohama.
 17. Coningsby, British str., for Port Arthur.
 17. Franz Ferdinand, Aust. str., for Trieste.
 17. Halloong, British str., for Tamsui.
 17. Haldi, German str., for Amoy.
 17. Hongkong, Fr. str., for Kwangchauwan.
 17. Konigsberg, German str., for Singapore.
 17. Loongsang, British str., for Manila.
 17. Ocean, British battleship, for practice.
 17. Prometheus, Norw. str., for Shanghai.
 17. Prosper, Norwegian str., for Canton.
 17. Tacoma, American str., for Tacoma.
 17. Tetartos, German str., for Amoy.
 17. Thales, British str., for Coast Ports.
 17. Tsintan, German str., for Bangkok.
 17. Verons, German str., for Moji.
 18. Formosa, British str., for Swatow.
 18. Emma Luyken, German str., for Saigon.
 18. Hoihao, French str., for Hoihow.
 18. Inaba Maru, Japanese str., for Singapore.
 18. Kinshu Maru, Japanese str., for Kobe.
 18. Kiang, British str., for Shanghai.
 18. Kalgan, German str., for Chinkiang.
 18. Kweiyang, British str., for Swatow.
 18. Lennox, British str., for Manila.
 18. Malacca, British str., for Shanghai.
 18. Meefoo, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
 18. Rohilla Maru, Japanese str., for Manila.
 18. Sabine Rickmers, Brit. str., for Singapore.
 18. Siberia, American str., for Shanghai.
 18. Zafro, British str., for Manila.
 19. Borneo, German str., for Kudat.
 19. Caledonien, French str., for Shanghai.
 19. Daiji Maru, Japanese str., for Swatow.
 19. Daiya Maru, Japanese str., for Moji.
 19. Keemun, British str., for Nagasaki.
 19. Nanchang, British str., for Canton.
 19. Silvia, German str., for Tsintan.
 19. Taurigisan Maru, Japanese str., for Moji.
 19. Yoneyama Maru, Jap. str., for Saigon.
 20. Ailsa Craig, British str., for Moji.
 20. Chunsang, British str., for Swatow.
 20. Hikosan Maru, Jap. str., for Kutchinotsu.
 20. Kwangtak, Chinese str., for Canton.
 20. Petchaburi, German str., for Hongay.
 20. Woosung, British str., for Canton.
 21. Anping, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
 21. Argonade, German str., for Haiphong.
 21. Argonaut, British cruiser, for Japan.
 21. Cheangchow, British str., for Amoy.
 21. Clara Jensen, German str., for Canton.
 21. Hiroshima Maru, Jap. str., for Bombay.
 21. Holstein, German str., for Japan.
 21. Kaga Maru, Japanese str., for Seattle.
 21. Kwangping, Chinese str., for Canton.
 21. Labor, Norwegian str., for Canton.
 21. Marburg, German str., for Yokohama.
 21. Namsang, British str., for Calcutta.
 21. Namsang, German str., for Swatow.

21. Pekin, British str., for London.
 21. Phra U. Kiao, German str., for Bangkok.
 21. Pingsoy, British str., for Marcellas.
 21. Richmond Castle, British str., for Manila.
 21. Skuld, Norwegian str., for Bangkok.
 21. Taiyuan, British str., for Australia.
 22. Anamba, Danish str., for Canton.
 22. Anping Maru, Japanese str., for Swatow.
 22. Empr. of India, Brit. str., for Vancouver.
 22. Haitan, British str., for Swatow.
 22. Hongmoh, British str., for Amoy.
 22. Huron, British str., for Moji.
 22. Kalgan, British str., for Shanghai.
 22. Kasuga Maru, Jap. str., for Nagasaki.
 22. Melpomene, Austrian str., for Shanghai.
 22. Nanyang, German str., for Swatow.
 22. Rosetta Maru, Japanese str., for Manila.
 22. Sungkiang, British str., for Manila.
 22. Thea, Norwegian str., for Newchwang.
 23. Alacritty, British des.-ves., for Yokohama.
 23. An Pho, British str., for Amoy.
 23. Kwangtak, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
 23. M. Rickmers, German str., for P. Art. ur.
 23. Michael Jensen, German str., for Hoihow.
 23. Sentis, Norwegian str., for Port Arthur.
 23. Taifu, German str., for Mauritius.

PASSENGERS LIST.

ARRIVED.

Per *Tonkin*, for Hongkong, from Kobe, Mr. and Mrs. Connolly and Mr. G. W. Palmer; from Shanghai, Mr. and Mrs. H. Nelson, Miss Trombino, Revs. Brouchoud and Arvier, Messrs. H. S. Cooke, Craorn, Sorabjee Karanjia, Silbermann and E. Antonelli; for Saigon, from Kobe, Messrs. Terry and d'Estray; from Shanghai, Mr. Psima; for Singapore, from Kobe, Mr. Cowden; for Marseilles, from Kobe, Mr. and Mrs. Rousseau, Mr. and Miss Meere, Messrs. Duvent and Gaillard Labbe; from Shanghai, Mr. and Mrs. Van Laer and infant, Mrs. Cholot and two children, Messrs. Benetrite, Rosignion, Dorchy, Lamorte, Guivarch and Kerisit.

Per *Caledonien*, for Hongkong, from Singapore, Mr. and Mrs. Levy, Mr. and Mrs. Captanéo, Mr. and Mrs. Bemis, Dr. and Miss Graham, Miss Blackie, Messrs. D. Welby, R. Jeffrey, Murray and Fischer; from Saigon, Rev. Gueneau and Mr. Fabre; for Shanghai, from Aden, Mr. and Mrs. Smith, Miss Klozner, Messrs. P. Girard, Shillier, Farage, Paturel, Albert Jullie, H. Sette, Leonid Albacarmoff, Laglaise, Farles, Periot, Bellet, Legarisheff and M. Chill; for Kobe, from Singapore, Mr. Nachoda; for Yokohama, from Bombay, Mrs. J. Faure and Lieut. Col. Deane; from Singapore, Miss S. G. Gearon and Mr. C. L. Hilles; from Saigon, Messrs. Tollard, F. Yusa and le Gal Jedernot.

Per *Ballarat*, from Shanghai, for Hongkong, Mrs. Krenner, Misses Vaughan and Brown, Messrs. E. W. Mitchell, J. Scott Harston, F. J. Cellamore, Hamilton, Bromley, P. K. Knyvett, W. G. Worcester, Primmer, Peterson, Walshe, Dillon, Higson, Abrahams and Osborne; for Singapore, Messrs. F. Hall and W. E. Bew; for Melbourne, Mr. and Mrs. O. B. Barnett; for Sydney, Mr. and Mrs. Platt and two children; for Marseilles, Messrs. L. Bruell and John Morris, Miss A. Pomeroy and Master W. S. Harvie; for London, Mrs. Hudson and two children, Capt., Mrs. and Miss Whittle and Mr. Lewis Plummer.

DEPARTED.

Per *Caledonien*, for Shanghai, Mrs. J. do Rozario and child, Miss Porter, Messrs. E. Claude Newby, J. Faure, C. Piry, Rosati, Valpreda, Dr. Wan, and Rev. Colhaun; for Kobe, Mr. Kidetaro.

Per *Siberia*, for Shanghai, Mrs. E. L. Douglas, Mr. and Mrs. W. E. Gray, Messrs. J. J. B. Humskirk, J. G. Perfect, McAdam, Ruiseau, Boisse, E. Kadoori, R. A. Gubbay, K. G. Kingsford, E. Edwards, J. J. Gilmore, J. W. Wynn, N. Lee, W. C. Nason, G. A. O'Keilly, Spethman, C. W. Mead, C. Clifford, R. Gonzaless and L. E. Sperry; for Nagasaki, Mrs. Barr Allen, Mrs. Kusa, Mrs. Tomi, Miss Esabbay, Capt. Wittenmeyer and Taylor, Messrs. T. Sakata, W. F. Wood, C. E. Andrews and A. L. Andrews; for Kobe, Mrs. and Miss R. Waller, Mr., Mrs. and Miss Esabbay, Mr. and Mrs. and Miss Quarrier, Misses Reifernath, Krause, Duncan, Brustzrum and Annis, Messrs. F. Ebraham and B. Muraoka; for Yokohama, Mrs. E. Mayers, Mrs. and Miss Anderson, Misses K. Williamson and Freeman, Lieut. Hodgson and

M. B. Remington, Messrs. H. S. Gray, Herbert, C. Derbyshire, W. A. Parel, and J. C. McBea; for San Francisco, Mrs. and Miss Gibbs, Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Umbertabier, Mrs. Plerson, Mr. W. B. Perry, Mrs. Layton, Mrs. O. F. Campbell, Mr. and Mrs. G. A. Perry, Mrs. G. M. Brink, Misses Machado, Stohler, Reed, A. Kelshaw, Thomas, E. V. Valentine, F. L. Nickel, Hamill'on, E. J. Hudd, L. G. Bryan and B. M. Hull, Dr. Washburn, Messrs. J. F. Jennings, M. John, M. McGinn, D. Henderson, E. A. Peabody, Geo. Wilson, J. H. Burton, J. W. Chuseborough, J. J. McCarry, A. J. David, G. A. Harrison, H. B. Fluss, W. H. Gigg, L. Schott, D. H. Moon, W. A. Pinkerton, A. H. Rennie, R. C. Milward, W. Winthrop, B. Van Zandt, E. Sieberst, J. Zundel, R. E. Chew, A. L. Small, H. A. George, P. D. Neilson, L. G. Ross, E. Siebert, A. B. Anderson, G. W. Pegman, T. H. Stewart, E. W. Bratton and H. G. Robinson and Miss A. J. Blackwood; for New York, Mrs. G. Richard and Dr. F. Hardeck; for Buffalo, N.Y., Mr. F. Klein; for St. Louis, Mo., Mr. E. W. Meredith; for London, Mrs. Atherton, Mr. and Mrs. G. C. C. Master, Miss Chardos Pole, Lieut. Collins, Messrs. W. R. Yule, M. Wickinson, W. B. Brown; for Sydney, Mr. and Miss Saller; for Hamburg, Mr. M. Lobell.

Per *Kaga Maru*, for Seattle, &c., Mr. and Mrs. A. Cunningham and child, Mrs. Cousland and three children, Mrs. Newman Mumford and child, Mrs. E. C. Hardy, Mrs. F. L. Macondray and child, Mr. and Mrs. Frank A. Flagger, Mr. and Mrs. Thos. Cook, Cpt. and Mrs. Bagshawe, Mrs. A. M. Miller, Mr. and Mrs. W. W. Rodwell and infant, Mrs. E. A. Root, Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Schwindt, Lieut. and Mrs. Beck and child, Col. and Mrs. Lambkin and child, Mr. and Mrs. J. Frank Daniel, Mrs. Tenang Reyes, Lieuts. Chas. D. Harvey, Mayall and Sutor, Major Austin, Messrs. Stuart S. Harvey, Chas. A. Davis, K. Fognuchi and K. Miyasaki.

Per *Empress of India*, for Vancouver, &c., Mr. and Mrs. W. Wm. Whiston, Miss Whiston, Mr. and Mrs. H. B. Horsey, Mrs. C. Macnamara, Mrs. S. E. Newton, Major and Mrs. W. A. C. Denny, Mr. and Mrs. H. M. Warren, Mr. H. M. Warren, jr., Miss and Master Warren, Mr. and Mrs. H. L. Denny, Mrs. Airey, Mrs. Botton, Mr. and Mrs. J. S. Ewart, Mrs. Clive, Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Pease, Mr. and Mrs. W. P. Brigstocke, Paymaster and Mrs. C. R. O'Leary and infant, Mr. and Mrs. A. S. Fleming, Capt. and Mrs. Hodgins and child, Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Port, Miss L. E. Port, Mr. and Mrs. W. D. Wilcox, Mrs. R. Oliver and infant, Sir Wm. M. and Lady Goodman, the Misses Goodman, Col. and Mrs. Terrier, Mr. and Mrs. H. E. Bard, Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Saunders, Mr. and Mrs. N. C. Abbott, Mr. and Mrs. T. H. Rhodes, Mr. and Mrs. E. S. Kadoorie, Mr. and Mrs. F. W. Stein and two children, Mrs. A. L. B. Daires, Dr. and Mrs. J. F. Shand, Mrs. S. C. Simpson, Mr. and Mrs. J. L. McLaughlin, Rev. and Mrs. J. B. Rodgers and three children, Mr. and Mrs. M. Lawry, Surg. and Mrs. E. B. Tenney and two children, Rev. and Mrs. G. H. Hamlen and three children, Misses C. P. Clark, Edwards, Gardner, Emmeline Crocker, Graham, Slade, K. O. Corp, Locok, Patterson, E. Williams, Florio Donaldson, M. E. Williams, S. A. Smith, N. M. Phillips and Fannie Dann, the Pollard's Lilliputian Opera Co., Dr. J. C. Graham, Major Carte Ra, Messrs. Abel Haywood, Edw. Platt, C. S. Whittell, C. V. Lloyd, G. O. Borwick, M. Ponsonby, J. C. Ward, Hugh S. Smith, E. C. Taylor, G. Wats n, D. A. Andrews, Joseph Reade, Wm. Briggs, A. G. W. Wright, J. W. Ryder, E. O. Umney, Gilbert Wintle, W. A. W. Dawn, J. Wilson, W. A. Cruikshank, H. A. Tash, G. W. St. Clair, R. D. Webster, Percy Fowler, C. E. Morford, James Orange, J. E. Norton, Joan Geldeman, W. R. Hubbard, F. B. Behner, P. H. Henshaw, A. E. Griffin, J. E. Lee, A. W. Miller, J. R. Mitchell, Geo. C. Graves, H. Rebbelmund, Julius Drelle, C. G. Danby, F. Findley, J. Martin, P. F. King, F. T. Coulson, O. von Kapp, Geo. Alfred Magie, J. H. Murray, E. Sherwin, J. F. Contlet, C. H. Simpson, E. Jaffrey, R. F. Friedel, W. B. Kempthorne, M. A. Colton, H. N. Small and N. C. Smith.

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